



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israelis, Palestinians Attend Paris Donor Conference

Conference Postponed

JN0909165294 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1515 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Differences between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations to the conference of donor nations—which will defray the expenses of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]—have postponed indefinitely the opening of the conference, diplomats in France said today.

The diplomats said differences arose over projects in the occupied city of Jerusalem that were listed by the PNA as part of the development schemes to be discussed at the conference.

The two sides have managed to reach a compromise by excluding the city of Jerusalem, following negotiating that lasted several hours between Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation and head of the Palestinian delegation, and Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Dispute To Delay Transfer of Power

TA0909173594 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew* 1700 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] It has been reported from Paris that the plenum session of the donor countries scheduled for today was canceled because of a serious disagreement between Israel and the Palestinians over aid to projects in East Jerusalem. The meeting has not yet been rescheduled.

Israeli delegation sources have said that the fact that the session was canceled means that the transfer of authorities in the territories will be delayed.

Norway's foreign minister suggested that the donor countries reconvene simultaneously with the Peres-'Arafat meeting in Oslo next week, in which they will apparently discuss the disagreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

Sarid: No Accord If Jerusalem on Agenda

TA0909190494 *Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic* 1700 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Interview with Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by anchor Yusuf Isma'il and political correspondent Shlomo Ganor in the studio—live, in Hebrew with passage-by-passage translation into Arabic; processed from the Hebrew]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Isma'il] Mr. Sarid, I hope you more or less understood our report on the problems at the donors conference in Paris.

[Sarid] If I understand correctly, and correct me if I am wrong, the issue of Jerusalem was raised. Well, this is a surprise to me, because I have just heard it here from you. Nonetheless, it is a very regrettable surprise, as it was very important to reach an agreement with the donor countries because without it, no donations will be made, and without donations, the Palestinian Authority [PA] will find it very hard to function, work, and carry out its tasks. Yet, this is what happens when one is not sufficiently faithful to a signed agreement.

As is known, the agreement says that the Jerusalem issue may be raised—following a Palestinian demand, should they so wish—only after two years. Anyone trying to change the order of things by bringing up this sensitive issue at this time, contrary to the agreement, naturally violates the efforts and primarily those of the PA. If indeed the issue of Jerusalem was raised for the agenda, it is not at all surprising that there is no agenda, no agreement, and no donations. This is a very serious obstacle. If the Palestinians keep insisting on raising the issue of Jerusalem, as they have in Paris, if I understand you correctly, I foresee very serious difficulties and obstacles further down the road to additional agreements on which we are currently working.

[Isma'il] How do you view the current situation? Perhaps you have some idea about how to overcome this obstacle?

[Sarid] There is only one idea. If an issue that should not be brought up at this time is raised, it should be removed from the agenda. The parties must adhere to the agreement and act in accordance with it. If both the Israelis and the Palestinians remain absolutely faithful to the agreement—and there is no other option—then the obstacles will be removed, and the road will be open. We very much want to make progress. I wish to stress this: The Israeli Government very much wants to progress on the path of making agreements with the PA. We have almost completed the stage of early empowerment—almost, because of this last obstacle. We are facing the critical stage of elections and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the territories. We would very much like to see this stage implemented as well. This is why the obstacle of a premature discussion of the issue of Jerusalem should be removed. We knew it is an obstacle. We knew it should not be raised at this stage, and I am very surprised that the Palestinian leadership, mainly Dr. Nabil Sha'th, did not know that they would be placing a great obstacle before the negotiators by raising the issue of Jerusalem prematurely.

[Ganor] Minister Sarid, do you believe that a solution to this problem will be found at the Peres-'Arafat meeting in Oslo next Tuesday?

[Sarid] I hope so. Judging from our experience, when there are difficulties and delays, meetings between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is also the head of the liaison committee, and PLO and PA leader Yasir 'Arafat have always helped and eventually led to an agreement. [passage omitted]

Abu-'Ala' Terms Failure 'Shock'

TA0909191294 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Sep 94*

[Text] Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], in charge of the economy in the Palestinian autonomy, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem this evening that the failure of the Paris conference comes as a shock to the Palestinians. According to him, the Palestinians pinned many hopes on the conference, which was supposed to achieve a breakthrough in the development of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Abu-'Ala' stressed that an improvement in the economic situation in the territories is a necessary condition for the success of the agreement between Israel and the PLO and called on all the parties to do their utmost to settle the differences and preserve the peace process.

Sha'th on Israeli Stand on Talks

JN1009064394 *Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Sep 94*

[Excerpt] The issue of Jerusalem has always been a stumbling block for the Palestinians and Israelis. The Paris donor countries meeting scheduled for yesterday has been postponed indefinitely due to differences over Jerusalem between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. The Israeli side insists that Jerusalem is completely excluded from the self-rule accord during the transitional period. Meanwhile, the Palestinian side asserts that it has a right to set up education, health, and economic institutions, as well as other institutions, during the transitional period.

Our radio asked Chief Palestinian Delegate Nabil Sha'th about these differences and about the Palestinian stand. He said:

[Begin Sha'th recording] The Israelis object to setting up investments in Jerusalem, which the donor states have pledged to finance. This matter arouses great concern because it conflicts with the Declaration of Principles [DOP], which gives us a right to set up Palestinian education, cultural, and economic institutions, as well as other institutions, during the transitional period until we reach the stage of final talks on the final status of Jerusalem.

However, the Israeli side continues to deal with Jerusalem as if it is part of Israel, in fact, as if it is the capital of Israel. Meanwhile, the Israeli decision to annex Jerusalem is not recognized by any country in the world, including the United States. Also, Israel continues to build settlements in Jerusalem contrary to all international resolutions and agreements, as well as the spirit of the DOP and the agreement on loan guarantees signed by the United States and Israel.

Despite this, we said that we do not mind if they oppose building a Palestinian parliament in Jerusalem or a police station in Jerusalem. However, setting up all education, health, cultural, and economic institutions in

Jerusalem is stipulated by the DOP. We should undertake this. It is also being undertaken by international organizations, including the UNDP [United Nations Development Plan] and the UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency], as well as the consulates of many Western countries. [end recording] [passage omitted]

PNA 'Finance Minister' on Paris Talks

NC1009074094 *Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 10 Sep 94*

[Telephone interview with Palestinian "Finance Minister" Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, in Gaza, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program on 10 September—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] Mr. Muhammad, good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Nashashibi] Thank you.

[Husayn] Let us first know why the economic talks in Paris have collapsed.

[Al-Nashashibi] It is very regrettable that the talks, to which all sides attached great hope, should collapse. The Paris meeting was decided on after a long dialogue between the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], the World Bank, and representatives of the donor states. We had reached an agreement with the World Bank on the majority of issues and on the Palestinian budget and the support needed for it. We had identical views on all issues related to the implementation of development projects and support for the PNA budget.

[Husayn] How do you explain Israel's position on the programs for developing Jerusalem, due to which the talks have collapsed?

[Al-Nashashibi] You well know that this Israeli position runs counter to international laws and legitimacy. We have prepared programs for the reconstruction of the infrastructure in Gaza and the West Bank. According to UN resolutions, east Jerusalem is part of the West Bank. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 provide for withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian territories, and it is internationally recognized that east Jerusalem is part of these territories. Any program for the reconstruction of the West Bank, therefore, must also cover east Jerusalem. It is not the right of the Israelis to make this issue a reason for the failure of the talks. East Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories, and reconstruction programs for the West Bank should involve Jerusalem. There is therefore no justification for Israel to make reconstruction of this part of Jerusalem a reason for the failure of talks on which all parties have pinned so much hope.

[Husayn] Basic differences have obviously affected the convening of the meeting. What contacts do you intend to hold with the donor states after the collapse of the talks?

[Al-Nashashibi] There are two plans: First, brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will soon hold a meeting in Oslo, where this subject will be discussed; and, second, PNA officials will visit all donor states, especially the main ones, to stress the importance of their contribution to the reconstruction of the West Bank and Gaza. In these meetings, we will emphasize the need to speed implementation of the projects so that peace can be meaningful. It is either a peace leading to prosperity or no peace.

[Husayn] Mr. Muhammad, who will brother President Abu-'Ammar meet in Oslo?

[Al-Nashashibi] This has not been determined yet, but he is expected to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Husayn] Do you intend to raise this point when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrives in the region in the next few days?

[Al-Nashashibi] One of the most important issues to be brought up in the talks with the American secretary is the implementation of reconstruction projects in the West Bank and Gaza. The American role here is key. We have frequently discussed this issue with Mr. Christopher, and he showed understanding. After our latest discussion, he sent a message to the donor states urging them to speed up the provision of aid. We will certainly emphasize this when we meet with Mr. Christopher during his visit to the region.

[Husayn] What will be the impact of the collapse of the talks on your reconstruction plans and on the work of the Palestinian institutions in the upcoming stage?

[Al-Nashashibi] We will not let this temporary collapse prevent us from shouldering our responsibilities to our people. We will make every effort to convince the donor states that our proposals are legitimate and that delay will only lead to further problems, which no one needs.

[Husayn] Mr. al-Nashashibi, do you believe that the collapse of the talks, in other words the issue of Jerusalem, will affect the talks on transferring other powers in the West Bank to the PNA?

[Al-Nashashibi] As I heard, the Israelis have announced—and I hope this is not a final decision—that the collapse of the talks may obstruct early empowerment, because there will not be enough money to meet our responsibilities. Obstructing talks on development and reconstruction projects is one thing, but delaying assistance for the PNA budget is something else. We hope the budget will be supported so that we can swiftly receive the other powers; namely, health, social affairs, tourism, and taxation—both the income tax and the sales tax.

[Husayn] Thank you, Mr. al-Nashashibi, minister of finance of the PNA.

[Al-Nashashibi] Thank you.

Savir: Donors, Peres, 'Arafat To Meet in Oslo 13 Sep

TA1009183994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir by Shlomo Ganor in the studio on 10 September—recorded, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; processed from the Hebrew]

[Text] [Ganor] Mr. Savir, how do things stand this evening after the failure of the donor countries meeting in Paris yesterday?

[Savir] I believe there was a serious malfunction due to the fact that the Palestinians attempted to introduce the issue of the development of Jerusalem projects into the framework of the donor countries. In the context of the donors, we are speaking of an effort by the international community, with Israel's assistance, to develop the economy of the autonomy for the success of the agreement. Jerusalem is outside the autonomy, which is why dealing with it, with the development of institutions and investments in it—which takes place anyway—does not belong in this framework. This is also the feeling of most of the countries which cooperate in this effort.

[Ganor] Is there room for compromise between the parties?

[Savir] We made a compromise. Such compromises are tactical, and are designed to allow the discussions to continue. The compromise was that this issue does not belong here. We have no problem with countries which choose to assist an Arab hospital or school in Jerusalem, it happens in any event, but it will not be part of the autonomy issue. I feel that in the wake of what took place in Paris, our stand is now unequivocally clear to the Palestinians as well.

Next Tuesday [13 September], Chairman 'Arafat will meet with Foreign Minister Peres to mark the first anniversary of the Oslo agreement. A few minutes ago, we received an official invitation from the Norwegian foreign minister to continue the meeting of the donor countries in Oslo, in an informal manner perhaps, with the participation of the United States, the EC, Japan, and Russia. I believe that we will be back on track. It is a Palestinian interest as well as ours, and I believe that once we do this, funds will start coming in. At the same time, I must say that the impression I received in Paris is that although the Palestinians have made progress regarding the economic apparatuses, the donor countries encounter difficulties—not pertaining to funding projects, but with regard to ongoing expenses. We will have to work really hard to see that the resources need to fund the police and the self-government do arrive. I hope that on Tuesday, we will be able to resume joint work, which is a must for the autonomy and very much desired in terms of the continued success of the agreement.

[Ganor] Are you optimistic on the chances of overcoming this crisis?

[Savir] Yes, absolutely. We are well experienced with crises. Naturally, the issue of Jerusalem is very sensitive and it does not belong here. I believe that a year later, the meaning of this agreement for the Palestinians and us is very clear. We will overcome this crisis as well. We will deal with the things that matter, step by step. Now we are talking about economic success, and I have no doubt that if we join forces, we will overcome it. To a certain extent, we have overcome it, now that the donor countries will meet on Tuesday with 'Arafat, Peres, and other international community elements.

'Intensive' Israeli-Syrian Contacts Held in U.S.

TA0909184894 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Over the past several weeks, intensive Israeli-Syrian contacts were held in Washington. The contacts led to, among other things, the positive statements the two sides have made recently. The contacts were held between Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich and Syrian Amb. Walid al-Mu'allim, with American mediation. The progress made will also result in a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region starting next Saturday.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 9 September carries an announcer-read report, adding: "Jerusalem believes the United States will make an effort aimed at attaining the first meeting ever between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar'. The meeting is expected to take place as early as this month, during the annual UN General Assembly session which the two ministers will attend."]

Arab 'Sources' Expect Breakthrough

JN1109145094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Sep 94 p 3

[Text] London—Informed Arab diplomatic sources have said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit the Middle East at the end of the next week to hold talks with Syrian and Israeli officials. Although the sources do not expect Christopher to bring anything new, they said he "understands the Syrian position very well and will try to bring positions closer."

The sources did not rule out the possibility of a breakthrough in the Syrian-Israeli talks before the end of the year or in the first month or two of the new year, as [Egyptian] President Husni Mubarak speculated in an interview with AL-HAYAH last week.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said in London this week that realism does not mean capitulation to a bad reality. He said the Israelis are still trying to get

something for nothing. Peace, he said, will be possible only when they realize that they cannot succeed with Syria.

The sources said Syria believes Israel has not given the Palestinians or the Jordanians anything and is still trying to get peace in exchange for peace.

Al-Shar' stressed that the Americans understand Syria insists on two things: First, complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon; and, second, the link between the Lebanese and Syrian tracks of negotiations.

Al-Shar' stressed that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements to AL-HAYAH on Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon within nine months in return for halting the resistance (which Rabin called acts of terrorism) was not exactly an offer, but a "practical joke."

He said the Israeli side wants the Lebanese Army to disarm the resistance, including Hizballah, and to completely prevent operations for six months. But what would happen if an operation was carried out by any party before the end of this "trial period?" The result is that the Lebanon would be left without resistance and without land.

The diplomatic sources said Syria does not believe the Israeli offer is serious, but is an attempt to drive a wedge between the Lebanese and the Syrians. If Israel withdraws in accordance with Resolution 425, then Syria will be the first to applaud and the operations from southern Lebanon will cease immediately because the justification for such operations would end.

Minister al-Shar' stressed that there is nothing called a quarter of a peace or half of a peace, but either comprehensive peace or no peace. The Israelis thought that after their agreements with the Palestinians, other agreements would follow automatically. This, however, did not happen. But Syria is serious about its desire for peace and the Americans are now convinced of the seriousness of the Syrian position.

Al-Shar' made an official visit to Britain on Tuesday and Wednesday [6-7 September] and held talks with his British counterpart, Douglas Hurd, and other officials during which agreement was reached on a wide spectrum of bilateral cooperation.

Rabinovich Sees 'Slight Movement'

TA0909140394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Sep 94 p A3

[Interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israeli ambassador to the United States and head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Syria, by 'Aqiva Eldar in Washington; date not given—first two paragraphs are HA'ARETZ introduction]

[Text] In an interview with HA'ARETZ, Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United

States and head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Syria, said: Syria claims that the arrangement with it will be different from the one made with Egypt because it is willing to make warm, not cold, peace. Rabinovich added that the Syrian proposal will bear a price tag—that is, it will ask for better terms than Egypt received.

The ambassador noted that the substantive difference between Israel and Syria centers around the depth of the withdrawal, the time needed to implement the peace and normalization agreement in relation to the withdrawal, and the stages that will make up the time frame. According to him, Israel believes in three stages, and attributes great importance to the inner structure of each stage.

[Eldar] Is the time right for a U.S. bridging proposal?

[Rabinovich] The gap is too wide. Any attempt to make interim proposals will do more harm than good. At this stage, the gaps are still substantive, and the dialogue continues through the Americans. There has been some slight movement, but there still is a gap between our opening stand and that of the Syrians.

In terms of procedure and atmosphere, we are engaging more in public diplomacy, which is a significant change from several months ago. At that time, the Syrians rejected the Israeli proposal and U.S. advice to engage in public diplomacy. They claimed that it should be a function of substantial progress and that they will not get involved in this as long as they are not satisfied. We maintained that it is not about making concessions, because the purpose would be to promote the process for the benefit of all the parties.

[Eldar] How important are the remarks Faruq al-Shar' made in London?

[Rabinovich] At a certain moment, to avoid crossing a dramatic Rubicon, Syria opted for public diplomacy—for example, the media relay of the ceremonies held with Jordan.

[Eldar] A paper written in the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry points to the negative commentary that accompanied the Syrian television relays.

[Rabinovich] This is the opinion of the author of the paper, and I disagree with it.

We have now reached a situation in which Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' for the first time knowingly answered questions by Israeli reporters. In a conversation with the Danish foreign minister, he used the expression "warm peace" for the first time. This is an interesting point of contact between public diplomacy and substance.

[Eldar] What more do we want from Syria that we have not yet received?

[Rabinovich] First and foremost, we want the Syrian positions to move closer to ours. In May, we presented

an arrangement package and received a disappointing Syrian response. This stand has undergone some slight positive changes, but Syria must make several substantive steps to bridge the gap. Furthermore, the way the public diplomacy and dialogue is being conducted leaves much to be desired.

[Eldar] How will you view the term "warm peace" if, at the Arab League vote next week, Syria votes against canceling the Arab boycott of Israel?

[Rabinovich] This is one of many issues against which we measure changes in the Syrian attitude. Other such issues pertain to our presentation of credentials at the UN General Assembly; to whether their foreign minister walks out when ours speaks; and to meetings with Jews. How they deal with the Arab boycott is one of the signs. The Syrian media hints that the old line will be maintained. The Americans have not given up yet, hoping that a four-country coalition will be enough to pass the proposal. They are working on this with dedication, while estimating that success is not guaranteed.

[Eldar] Can we expect the talks to return to Washington?

[Rabinovich] We have no interest in formal meetings per se. Rather, we want meetings that yield results. When the ground is ready, in terms of the substance as well as the shape of the talks, it will be good to return to Washington, but not a minute sooner.

Envoy Rabinovich Comments on al-Asad Speech

TA1109100594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600
GMT 11 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israeli ambassador to the United States and chief delegate to the talks with Syria, by Menahem Friedman and Ya'el Dan; place not given—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, sir.

[Rabinovich] Good morning.

[Friedman] Sources in Jerusalem say that President al-Asad's speech is a good sign. What is so good in his statement that Syria will not relinquish even one centimeter of their homeland's soil?

[Rabinovich] Such a statement was indeed included in his speech, and the fact cannot be ignored that Syria is saying that it wants to make full peace with Israel but demands a price in exchange. Nevertheless, this is not what is new in this speech. What is new is that this speech was primarily meant to prepare the Syrian public. It was a speech befitting the opening of parliament and was aimed in a very specific direction; namely, to emphasize the interests of Syria and Lebanon and to distance Syria from the comprehensive solution with Jordan and the Palestinians.

[Dan] Are you actually saying that President al-Asad is trying to prepare his public for peace?

[Rabinovich] That is correct, although he has been doing just that for some time in his own way. The Syrian president has been trying to prepare his people for a peace that focuses on the interests of Syria and Lebanon. This may be taken for granted by people living in independent countries that look after their own interests, but it does not come natural to a regime that has been speaking in the name of Arab nationalism for over 20 years. Preparing the people for a solution that focuses on Syria and Lebanon instead of a general commitment to the Arab and Palestinian causes is an important step from al-Asad's point of view.

[Friedman] Is it an important speech from the point of view of the Israeli public?

[Rabinovich] It is an important speech. It is not frequently that al-Asad makes speeches or comments on the peace process. It is both an important and a positive speech.

[Friedman] What did the Syrian president mean when he said that Syria is aware that peace has objective requirements which are not alien to peace demands and that it will meet the objective requirements of peace to be agreed upon?

[Rabinovich] This is definitely convoluted language, a language of codes. When he says that each side to the conflict is aware of what is required of it, he means that Syria realizes that if it demands that Israel withdraw, Syria is required to give back peace. What he said in such convoluted words could be translated into simple language as follows: We understand that if we demand that Israel withdraw, we must give it peace in return. We actually understand that what we are talking about today is full peace. However, if Israel makes additional demands on us, such as those posed by Prime Minister Rabin in the last few days, what al-Asad is replying is that this is not an objective demand, and that he is still arguing this point.

In other words, this segment of the speech is a public argument with the Israeli position and is a continuation of the negotiations through other—that is, public—means.

[Friedman] Do you understand his speech to be in opposition to the proposed phased withdrawal from the Golan Heights?

[Rabinovich] Not to the principle of a phased withdrawal but to the number of phases, the length of time in question, and our demand that the structure of the phases should be such whereby we get a large measure of normalization in exchange for a small measure of withdrawal. These are the issues featuring in the give-and-take currently being conducted by the United States, and this is al-Asad's way of giving an inkling to his people about the negotiations and of sending a public message to us, in addition to what he has been telling us through the United States.

[Dan] The Golan settlers interpret the situation meaning that concessions have already been made and that some kind of agreement already exists between Israel and President al-Asad. Can the Syrian people infer from al-Asad's speech that their president has already attained some kind of agreement with Israel?

[Rabinovich] Your question consists of two parts, and I will answer them separately. First of all, if President al-Asad were satisfied he would not continue to make demands. In this respect, his speech means that Syria is not yet satisfied.

As for the Syrian people, President al-Asad said in his speech that the necessary progress in the peace process has not yet been attained, although he noted that there is hope and that he would work hard to turn this hope into a reality. In other words, he told his people that a breakthrough has not yet been attained although certain progress has been made, and that Syria will continue to work together with Israel and the United States to turn what he described as hope into a reality. This parallels what we say about having the beginning of progress or that certain progress has been made.

[Friedman] Mr. Ambassador, thank you very much.

[Rabinovich] Thank you and good morning.

Peres on 'Tough' Talks With Syria; Savir Fears PA Collapse

TA1109173994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said today that tough and complex negotiations with Syria still lie ahead. Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir said that the U.S. Administration believes Syria and Israel may sign a declaration of principles or some other mutually acceptable document within several months. Peres and Savir spoke to reporters today at a ceremony marking the first anniversary of the Oslo agreement. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports from the scene:

[Begin recording] [Nir] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that President al-Asad's statements yesterday constitute an important change in the atmosphere. At last, there are declarations about peace and not about war, Peres said. There has been a change in the atmosphere, although the actual negotiations still lie ahead, and the Syrians have not altered their position regarding the nature of the negotiations and continue to reject any direct or secret meetings between Syrian and Israeli representatives.

[Peres] I would like to stress that the negotiations still lie ahead of us. What has happened is that the peace process has been legitimized. This is important, and I do not discount it. The process itself, however, has yet to be implemented.

[Nir] Peres added that he expects tough and complex negotiations. He rejected the Likud's assertions that Syria and Israel have already reached agreement on many points.

Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, who has just returned from a visit to Washington, said that U.S. Administration officials believe Israel and Syria will reach a declaration of principles or some other agreed upon document within several months. Savir said administration officials believe that this stage will be followed by direct negotiations. [passage omitted]

'Intensive' Israel-Syria 'Secret Contacts' Reported

TA1209093394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Nehama Dowek]

[Text] Intensive secret contacts have taken place in recent weeks between Itamar Rabinovich and Walid al-Mua'llim, the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors to the United States, under a heavy shroud of secrecy. Messages from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad were exchanged in these contacts.

The prime minister's position regarding a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, as expressed in the cabinet session last Thursday, was conveyed to the Syrians as early as two weeks ago.

A most senior source said yesterday that the Syrians flatly rejected the Israeli proposal. According to the source, the Syrian position budged slightly in the course of the meetings. "They asserted that they would agree to a phased withdrawal only if it is decided in advance that Israel would be returning to the 1967 lines," the source said.

It was further noted that in his briefing to the prime minister Rabinovich reported that there had been an improvement in the Syrian position but no breakthrough had yet been made.

The Syrian ambassador told his Israeli counterpart that a breakthrough would occur only if Israel announced in advance that at the end of the process there would be a pullback to the 1967 borders. "Israel is not yet ready for that," the senior source stated. He added that in the meetings it was decided that the prime minister and the Syrian president would make their positions public. The prime minister's remarks and al-Asad's speech over the weekend were part of this move.

Israeli-Jordanian Talks To Continue in Tiberias

Jordan's al-Tarawinah on Topics

JN1109072094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Jordanian-Israeli bilateral negotiations are to begin in Tiberias on the Israeli side tomorrow. Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation to the negotiations and Jordanian ambassador in Washington, said that bilateral subcommittees will follow up on

discussions concerning territory, borders, water, security, energy, environment, tourism, and economy, as well as other agenda issues already discussed during other meetings. He added that the trilateral Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli committee will hold a meeting to continue discussions on the terms of reference of the development plan of the Jordan Rift Valley. In addition to the Jordanian and Israeli delegations, a technical U.S. team will take part in the meeting.

Dr. al-Tarawinah indicated that the trilateral Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli committee met in Washington on 31 August and discussed the Jordanian and Israeli visions of the terms of reference for the development plan of the Jordan Rift Valley. Jordan and Israel agreed to follow up on and complete the issue in tomorrow's negotiations in Tiberias tomorrow.

Advance Delegation Arrives in Israel

TA1109113194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] An advance Jordanian delegation to the peace talks with Israel crossed the border this morning and is currently meeting with a Foreign Ministry team to discuss the preparations for the talks scheduled to be held tomorrow in Bet Gavri'el on Lake Tiberias' shore. Efrayim Mazor, head of the Foreign Ministry advance team, told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv that the Jordanian delegation presented several demands, such as providing the means to allow dozens of journalists to communicate with Jordan. All the Jordanian demands were fulfilled.

Further Round of Talks Prepared

NC1209062694 Paris AFP in English 0108 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Spelling of placenames as received]

[Text] Jerusalem, Sept 12 (AFP)—Israeli and Jordanian representatives prepared Monday [12 September] to hold a further round of talks on normalising relations, as work began on building a new cross-border road.

The two delegations were scheduled to meet in an Israeli cultural centre, Beit Gabriel, on the shores of Lake Tiberias.

Meanwhile the Israeli road building administration said it had begun work on a new road passing south of the lake, widening an existing route passing near the town of Beth Shean.

The road would cross the northern part of the Jordan valley on a bridge currently broken. The Beth Shean municipality said Sunday it would pay for the bridge repair and the building of border-crossing facilities for people and goods.

The two neighbours began peace talks on July 18 and a week later King Husayn of Jordan signed a declaration with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin ending 46 years of a state of war.

Islamic Affairs

Extraordinary Session of ICO Concludes

Final Communiqué of Conference

BK0909095894 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 0708 GMT 9 Sep 94

["Highlights of the Final Communiqué" of the Seventh Extraordinary Session of the ICO's Foreign Ministers Conference held at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad 7-9 September; read by unidentified official—live]

[Text] On the request of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and in accordance with the rules of procedure of meetings of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization], the Seventh Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers was held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan from September 7 to 9, 1994. The conference was held under the high patronage of Her Excellency Ms. Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Forty-eight member states out of the total of 51 participated in the conference. The conference was opened by Her Excellency Ms. Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

In a truly inspiring inaugural address, the prime minister presented the vision of a political enlightened, economically vibrant and socially advanced Muslim ummah [community] in harmony with itself playing a vital role in the maintenance of international peace and progress as the world moves into the new millennium. While forcefully espousing the need for strengthening of Islamic unity and solidarity, she stated that today Muslims are the main victims of aggression all over the world, with special attention to the question of Palestine and al-Qods al-Sharif, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan and Jammu and Kashmir. She asserted that al-Aqsa and al-Qods al-Sharif must remain a central focus of the Islamic world and called for the restoration of the holy places to Muslim sovereignty and the withdrawal of all Israeli troops from the occupied territory.

Referring to the tragic situation in Afghanistan, she stated that Pakistan has a deep and abiding interest for the well-being and prosperity of Afghan brothers and sisters and restoration of peace and stability there. She urged the conference to seek to promote reconciliation in Afghanistan. The prime minister dwelt at length on the tragedy which has engulfed the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and emphasized the dangers inherent in acquiescing to aggression. She called upon the countries to build a plan to help the Bosnian people achieve their legitimate objectives.

The prime minister poignantly described the grave situation in Jammu and Kashmir, where over 600,000 Indian troops were ruthlessly perpetuating a campaign of aggression against the heroic and determined struggle of Kashmiri people for freedom. She stated that Kashmir is not a dispute over territory, but it is a conflict about the destiny of the people. The prime minister stated that while India was inflicting state terrorism against the Kashmiris, it has the temerity to portray the Kashmir struggle as terrorism. India's campaign of terror continues to turn the valley of Kashmir into the killing fields of South Asia. She reminded the international community that if the states have the right to self-defense under the UN charter, so do the people who are subjected to foreign aggression. Refuting India's claim that Kashmir is its integral part, the prime minister described the Kashmiri uprising as a natural and universal expression of the people yearning for the freedom.

On the proposal of his excellency, the head of delegation of the Republic of Turkey, the conference decided to adopt the inaugural address of Her Excellency Ms. Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister of Pakistan, as an official document of the conference. The conference was also addressed by His Excellency Haris Silajdzic, prime minister of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, who in his eloquent and moving statement warned about dangers to international peace and security inherent in acquiescence to aggression and genocide. His Excellency Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, foreign minister of Pakistan, was unanimously elected as chairman of the conference. The Republic of Uganda, the Republic of Tunisia, and the State of Palestine were elected as vice chairman. The Republic of Turkey was elected as rapporteur.

During the general debate, the foreign ministers and heads of delegations analyzed the situation in the Islamic world, particularly the challenges confronting the people of Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Jammu and Kashmir, and Afghanistan. They emphasized the need for intensifying selective efforts for promoting just and equitable solutions to these problems, as well as for the realization of the noble objectives of the charter of the ICO.

Palestine and al-Qods al-Sharif: The conference reaffirmed that the Palestine question is the prime cause for all Muslims and expressed its pride in and solidarity with the Palestine Liberation Organization in its just struggle for removing the effects of the Israeli occupation and building the Palestinian national institutions on the land of Palestine with a view to fulfilling the inalienable Palestinian national rights, including the rights of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland, to determine their own future and to establish their own independent state on their national soil with al-Qods al-Sharif as its capital.

It expressed its support for the peace process in the Middle East based on the resolutions of international legality, in particular Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which guarantee full Israeli withdrawal from all

the occupied Palestinian territory, including al-Qods al-Sharif, as well as from the occupied Syrian Golan and the occupied Lebanese and Jordanian territory. It welcomed the agreement concluded within its framework and expressed the hope that progress will be achieved on the other issues. It further affirmed that al-Qods al-Sharif is the core of the Palestine question which in turn is at the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, that it is an integral part of the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967. All the provisions applicable to the other occupied territories under the resolution of the UN Security Council and General Assembly also apply to it. It emphasized the necessity of its restoration to Palestinian sovereignty as capital of the state of Palestine for the sake of peace and security in the region. The conference strongly condemned Israel for refusing to comply with Security Council Resolution 497 and imposing its jurisdiction, its laws and its administration on the occupied Syrian Golan, as well as Israel's policies of annexation, establishment of settlements, expropriation of land, diversion of water resources, and imposition of Israeli nationality on Syrian citizens. It considered that all those measures were null and void. The conference also strongly condemned Israel's continuing occupation of southern Lebanon and the western Beka and demanded the immediate, complete, and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from the Lebanese territory.

Bosnia-Herzegovina: The conference reaffirmed the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It expressed its grave concern over the fact that Serbian side has been consolidating its territorial occupation and defying the Security Council which has been prevented from authorizing the use of force to secure the implementation of its relevant resolutions. The conference noted with consternation the grave situation arising from the rejection by the Serbian side of the peace plan proposed by the five-nation contact group and expressed its full support to the principled, courageous, and conciliatory position taken in the spirit of peace by the Bosnian Government, especially their acceptance of the five-nation peace plan which imposed the difficult burden of internal border delineation. It also noted that the lack of firm action on the part of the five-nations contact group has been interpreted as the weakening of the commitment of the five-nations contact group and that the immediate Serbian response to this weakening has been the targeting of the UN personnel, shutting down of the Sarajevo (?through) route, and intensification of the ethnic cleansing. The conference demanded that the Government of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina must be provided with all necessary means for self-defense to exercise individually or collectively its inherent right recognized by Article 61 of the UN Charter and expressed its readiness to cooperate with all UN member states to exhibit a willingness on their own initiative to provide the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina with a means for self-defense. The conference reiterated the inapplicability of the Security Council Resolution 713 to

the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and called upon the Security Council to confirm this. If no Security Council confirmation is forthcoming, the ICO membership, along with other UN members, will come to the conclusion that members acting individually or collectively can provide the means of self-defense to the Government of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The conference appealed to the international community to mobilize resources for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Jammu and Kashmir: The conference expressed its concern at the alarming increase in the indiscriminate use of force and gross violations of human rights committed against innocent Kashmiris. It also regretted that the government of India has not responded favorably so far to the offer of good offices mission made by the 20th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and renewed by the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference and that the ICO fact-finding mission was not allowed to visit Indian-held Jammu and Kashmir. It noted the report of the secretary-general on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and endorsed the recommendations contained therein. It called for a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir issue in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and as agreed upon in the Simla agreement.

The conference condemned the continuing massive violations of human rights of the Kashmiri people and called for the respect of the human rights, including the right of self-determination. It called upon member states to take all necessary steps to persuade India to cease forthwith the massive human rights violations of the Kashmiri people and to enable them to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination as mandated by the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

It also called upon India to allow international human rights groups and humanitarian organizations to visit Jammu and Kashmir. It supported the efforts of the Government of Pakistan to initiate a meaningful bilateral dialogue for resolving Jammu and Kashmir dispute and called upon the Government of India to respond positively to these efforts. It affirmed that a sustained dialogue is essential to address the core of the problem and to remove the basic cause of tension between India and Pakistan. It requested the Government of India in the interest of regional peace and security to avail itself of the offer of good offices made by the 20th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference.

It requested the secretary general to establish contact with the Governments of India and Pakistan and the true representatives of the people of Jammu and Kashmir with a view to promoting the just and peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute. It endorsed the recommendations of the secretary general that the true representatives of the Kashmiri people could be enabled to have their views expressed in the ICO and other international forums and requested the secretary general to take necessary steps in this regard.

The conference also decided to establish an ICO contact group on Jammu and Kashmir at the United Nations in New York to coordinate the efforts of member states for promoting the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people in accordance with the UN resolutions and for safeguarding their fundamental human rights and requested the secretary general to take appropriate steps for the expeditious setting up of the ICO contact group on Kashmir in consultation with the chairman of the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

The conference also recommended that member states continue to coordinate their positions and to take joint (?steps) at the UN General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights and other relevant international forums to promote respect for the fundamental human rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Afghanistan: The conference reiterated its commitment to the promotion of peace and stability in Afghanistan and to the safeguarding of the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of that country. It noted with serious concern that since the adoption of Resolution 8/21-3 by the 20th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, the Afghan parties have not been able so far to evolve a national consensus as a consequence of which the political crisis has deepened leading to the escalation of the armed conflict. It appealed to the Afghan leadership to spare no effort to bring the hostility to an immediate end and emphasized the urgent need for renewed political consensus amongst the Afghan parties. It also emphasized the need for the launching of a credible intra-Afghan process for restoring peace and stability in Afghanistan and for reviving the political, economic, social, and institutional infrastructure of the Afghan society.

The conference expressed its appreciation and support to the initiative taken by the secretary general to promote a credible intra-Afghan peace process and endorsed his recommendations for the opening of an ICO office for Afghanistan and the installation of ICO monitoring mechanism. It called upon the Afghan parties to extend their full cooperation to the ongoing efforts of the secretary general and his special representative for Afghanistan. It also reaffirmed the decision of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference that the ICO should have an active role in the solution of the Afghanistan problem.

Conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan: The conference strongly condemned the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Azerbaijan republic and considered the actions perpetrated against civilian Azeri population in occupied Azeri territory as crimes against humanity. It strongly demanded strict implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874, and 884, immediate unconditional and complete withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied Azeri territories into (Eliya), (Hadshin), (Tusha) regions and strongly urged Armenia to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan republic.

It called on the Security Council to recognize the existence of aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan, to take the necessary steps under Chapter Seven of the Charter of the United Nations, to ensure compliance with its resolutions, condemn and reverse aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan republic; and decided to take coordinated action to this end at the United Nations.

The conference reaffirmed its total solidarity and support for the efforts being made by the government and people of Azerbaijan to defend their country. It called for enabling the displaced persons and refugees to return to their homes in safety, honor, and dignity.

The crisis between the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the one hand and the United States of America and United Kingdom on the other hand: The conference examined the current crisis between the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the one hand and the United States of America and the United Kingdom on the other and expressed satisfaction at the flexibility shown by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and its readiness for cooperation with the efforts made to resolve this crisis through peaceful means so as to achieve justice for all and to safeguard the Jamahiriya's national sovereignty in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

The conference declared its support for the proposal made in the resolution adopted by the League of Arab States on 27 March 1994 calling for the holding of a just trial of the two suspects by Scottish judges in accordance with Scottish law at the seats of the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

And finally, the conference adopted the budgets of the general secretariat and its subsidiary organs for the financial year 1994-95.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman. [applause]

Asif Ali Statement at Closing

BK0909112594 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 0735 GMT 9 Sep 94

["Concluding statement" by Pakistani Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali, chairman of the Extraordinary Session of the ICO's foreign ministers conference in Islamabad—live]

[Text] In the name of Allah, the most beneficent and merciful. Mr. Secretary General, honorable ministers, brothers and sisters in faith: Let me felicitate you for accomplishing with great skill and competence the task that was assigned to this conference. The consensus achieved on all items on our agenda bears eloquent testimony to the strength, to the unity, and the solidarity of our organization. It is most heartening that within a short span of two days only this extraordinary session was able to achieve concrete and positive results on all the issues confronting the ummah. May I on behalf of the

government and the people of Pakistan congratulate you on this outstanding success. During our deliberations, we had detailed discussions on the burning issues of Palestine, on Afghanistan, on Bosnia-Herzegovina and on Jammu and Kashmir. We were also able to adopt well considered and constructive texts on the situation arising from the crisis regarding Libya and Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan. This illustrates the spirit of cooperation and goodwill which permeated the deliberations of this conference.

I am grateful that this extraordinary session was able to reaffirm its strong support and solidarity with the people of Palestine. The resolution on Palestine upholds the centrality of the principle that any comprehensive Middle East settlement would be based on resolutions 224 and 338 of the Security Council. While supporting the Middle East peace process, the resolution confirms that complete and unconditional withdrawal from all occupied territories, including Al-Qods, Al-Sharif is imperative for achieving a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the region. Let me on behalf of this conference, assure our Palestinian brothers of our unswerving support for their just cause. We shall find (pus on this side) till the realization of their just and legitimate rights.

Honorable ministers, brothers and sisters, by adopting the strong, collective decision on Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Islamic Conference has once again redeemed its pledge to its own charter. The forceful ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] condemnation of the crimes being committed in Bosnia signals our resolve to continue to pursue the achievement of the national rights of the fraternal Bosnian people. We shall continue to vigorously promote the just Bosnian case in all international forums, particularly the United Nations Security Council. Pakistan will shortly consult with other Muslim members of the Security Council on the most effective modalities for enforcing the decisions of this conference. We shall stand with the valiant Bosnian people in their endeavor to turn back the forces of aggression from the sacred soil of the Bosnian Republic.

We have every reason to be gratified with the adoption of a consensus decision on Afghanistan. The entire Muslim ummah feels a sense of deep anguish at the senseless and murderous conflict in Afghanistan. We grieve over the suffering of the Afghan people, the primary victims of a war unleashed by a faction leaders. I would like to appeal to these Afghan leaders to heed the message of this conference, to heed the voice of the Muslim ummah. I urge them to extend their full cooperation to our Secretary General in his efforts to promote peace and harmony in this unfortunate country. Afghanistan cannot sustain any further destruction. A nation which fought so valiantly for freedom now seems to have become the captive of an (?implacable) desolation. Its long suffering people now need peace to patch together the fragments of their fractured and broken lives. We

stand at the beck and call of our Afghan brothers. But they must first summon the will to live peacefully with each other.

Honorable ministers, brothers and sisters: The ICO was the first to react to the grief of the Kashmiri people; within months of Indian crackdown in 19th ICFM [Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers] in Cairo took a principled position on Jammu and Kashmir. Since then, this organization at its summit and ministerial meetings has reaffirmed its support and solidarity for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. It is a matter of deep gratification for the [word indistinct] ICO at this extraordinary session has once again stood by the valiant Kashmiri nation. The resolution on Jammu and Kashmir which we have just adopted contains several important elements. It has supported the resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions. It has condemned the massive violations of human rights in Kashmir. It has urged a positive response to Pakistan's efforts to promote a meaningful dialogue with India. The conference has decided under the Kashmir resolution to establish an ICO contact group in New York to coordinate the efforts of member states for promoting the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people in accordance with the UN Resolutions and for safeguarding their fundamental human rights. This contact group provides an institutional mechanism for the ummah to promote the Kashmir cause. We are confident that the members of this group will spare no efforts in fulfilling the mandate assigned to them. The establishment of the group reflects the determination of this organization to give practical shape to its desire to find a just and honorable solution to this dispute which continues to cast a dark and ominous shadow over the 1 billion people of South Asia, which represents one fifth of entire humanity. The decision to allow the two representatives of the Kashmiri people to present their views to the ICO is a historic development. It will give a voice to a voiceless people. It will enable the Kashmiris to convey their desires and aspirations and their trials and travails in their own words. This decision is a great service to a noble cause. Hopefully, the long suppressed voice of the Kashmiri people will be heard in the near future, even if we are unable to hear this voice at this conference.

Honorable ministers, today you have brought hope and succor to our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan, in Bosnia, in Azerbaijan, Palestine, and in Kashmir. These oppressed people and violated people need your support in their struggle for national honor. These victims of conflict and oppression, these victims of a world that is uncaring and brutal look to us for sympathy and support. I can say this with great pride: that in Islamabad the ummah did not fail them.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: We are deeply grateful to you for responding so promptly and so enthusiastically to our invitation to this extraordinary session. This speaks of your love and affection for

Pakistan and its people. For this, we thank you and most warmly. Due to the short notice at which we prepared this conference, we may have fallen short of your expectations. I seek your indulgence for any inconvenience that may have been caused to you. I wish you a safe journey back home. We hope you will visit us—your second home Pakistan—in the near future so that we can once again demonstrate the love and affection in which you are held. Dear brothers and sisters, let me in the end also pay a personal tribute to our respected Secretary General and his dedicated staff for their vital contributions to this conference. We are also grateful to all others who worked behind the scenes to make this meeting a success. Lastly, dear brothers and sisters, a personal note of thanks from me and I am deeply indebted to you for your cooperation and for your being with us to attend this conference. As you go back to your homes, please go back with the love and affection of the people of Pakistan and with these thoughts in your minds and hearts: that this is the land of Islam where from the snow clad mountains of the Karakoram, from the valleys and rivers of this land, from the Arabian sea which washes the shores of Pakistan, from all people, all that is Pakistan. [sentence as heard] You should go back with this knowledge that this land bears a great love for Islam and a great love for the Great Prophet of Islam, Hazrat Mohammad—peace be upon him. With these few words, I once again thank you. Assalamo Alaikum and Khuda Hafiz. [Peace be upon you and may God protect you]

Joint News Conference Held

BK0909145594 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has decided to establish a contact group on Jammu and Kashmir at the United Nations. The group will coordinate efforts of member states for promoting the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people and their fundamental human rights. A joint communique issued at the end of the three-day conference of the Islamic foreign ministers in Islamabad today said the conference analyzed the situation in the Islamic world with particular reference to the challenges confronting the people in occupied Kashmir, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, and Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Addressing a joint press conference at the end of the three-day extraordinary session, the chairman of the session and Pakistan's foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, and the secretary general of ICO, Dr. Hamid Algabid, said the secretary general, in consultation with the chairman of the conference, will establish a contact group as soon as possible. The group will represent Asian, Middle Eastern, and African Muslim countries. They said the contact group will give a fresh impetus to efforts for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolution. The contact group will also coordinate efforts to safeguard the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people and stop oppressive measures of the Indian forces against them.

Recounting achievements of earlier ICO contact groups, Dr. Hamid Algabid said ICO contact groups on Bulgaria and Bosnia-Herzegovina have been most successful in their mission. It was because of the efforts of the contact group on Bosnia that Bosnia-Herzegovina is today an independent state and a member of the United Nations. The contact group on Bulgaria has fully secured the rights of the Bulgarian Muslims.

They said the contact group on Jammu and Kashmir will provide an institutional mechanism to the ummah [Islamic community] to promote the Kashmiri cause. The group will spare no effort in fulfilling its mandate, as the ICO has resolved to find an honorable solution of the Kashmir dispute. They said the ICO decision to invite the representatives of Kashmiris to present their viewpoints was historic.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said although India has not allowed Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and other leaders of the Hurriyat Conference to come to Islamabad, the ICO will continue to invite the Kashmiri leaders to attend its conferences in future.

Iran's Velayati Comments

LD0909162694 Tehran IRNA in English 1521 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Islamabad, Sept. 9, IRNA—Foreign Minister of Iran 'Ali Akbar Velayati said at a press conference here today that the Islamic Republic will try to make sure that the resolutions of the United Nations touching on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina (B-H) are carried out, and that Muslim states cannot tolerate the present impasse in B-H any longer.

He said the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina is a one-sided decision and the other party to the conflict has access to all sorts of facilities and arms.

The Iranian foreign minister is in Islamabad for the extraordinary session of foreign minister of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) which ended its work today with a resolution.

Velayati, meanwhile, repeated Iran's readiness to mediate between Pakistan and India on the question of Kashmir. He told the two countries to end the tension and not to waste their limited resources in any war.

Earlier this month, Iran's Vice-Speaker of the Majlis, Hassan Rowhani, in his talks with senior Indian officials in New Delhi, had offered Iran's services to mediate in the Kashmir issue.

The OIC meeting in Islamabad also focused on the problem in Indian controlled Kashmir and had invited delegations of Kashmiri leaders to the session.

Velayati rejected any question of change in Iran's stance towards the PLO-Zionist compromise, and said Iran has reiterated before that such agreements do not hold a just and durable solution to the Palestinian problem.

He called for the restoration of the birthrights of the Palestinian people.

On Afghanistan and his talks with leaders of Afghan factions here last night, Velayati said Iran is ready to host the mediation talks suggested by OIC Secretary general Hamid al-Gabid.

Iran as a member of the OIC Contact Group on Afghanistan will spare no efforts to resolve the issue, he added.

Velayati referring to Iran's role in the talks between the Tajik Government and opposition groups, said talks would continue on the issue.

He said the Tajik opposition was for the simultaneous declaration of the date of elections, general amnesty and the cease-fire.

On relations between Iran and the United Arab Emirates, he said it is necessary that the UAE foreign minister visit Tehran for resumption of talks. He said the talks would be on the basis of the 1971 agreement on the three Persian Gulf islands which belong to Iran.

Velayati said Iran does not have any nuclear program.

At the end of his press conference, the Iranian foreign minister said the visit Tuesday [13 September] to Tehran of Pakistani President Faruq Ahmed Leghari would be extremely important.

Syria's Qaddur Comments

JN0909145294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Islamabad—Nasir Qaddur, [Syrian] minister of state for foreign affairs, has said the peace process has not made any essential and tangible progress despite everything that has been described as positive developments.

He said peace in the Middle East has not been achieved because Israel has not withdrawn from the territories it is occupying, has not recognized the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, and has refused to withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

Addressing the seventh extraordinary session of the Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] foreign ministers conference held in Islamabad, the minister said holy Jerusalem is not merely a mosque or a church, but it is an important part of the occupied Arab territories. He said the resolutions of international legitimacy must be applied to it. It must return to Arab sovereignty.

Qaddur stressed that Syria has not spared and will not spare any effort to safeguard the peace process, hoping to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on UN Security Council Resolutions No. 242, 338, and 425, and the land-for-peace formula in accordance with the Madrid conference's formula. He said Syria wants an honorable peace.

He said the peace process is still blocked by Israel's intransigence, its refusal to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, and its attempts to circumvent the bases of the peace process and to evade its requirement.

Concluding his statement, the minister of state for foreign affairs called for the continuation of the ICO's solidarity with and support for the major cause of the Arabs and Muslims until the end of the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, particularly holy Jerusalem.

The agenda of the seventh extraordinary session of the ICO's foreign ministers conference includes topics on peace in the Middle East and the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, and Jammu and Kashmir.

Saudi Minister Addresses Meeting

LD0909133494 Riyadh SPA in English 1228 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Islamabad, Sep 9, SPA—The Saudi minister of state and cabinet member Muhammed Ibrahim Mas'ud, who is leading the Kingdom's delegation to the seventh extraordinary meeting of the foreign ministers of the members of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Islamabad, has reiterated the unwavering positions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the wise leadership of Custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz towards the decisive issues of the Arab and Islamic nations.

Addressing the meeting on Wednesday [7 September], Mas'ud said the Kingdom could continue to render all possible moral and material support for the Arab and Islamic causes.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has exerted utmost effort for supporting the just cause of the brotherly Palestinian people which it used to deal with as its number one question and has also paid special attention on the question of the holy city of Al-Quds bearing in mind that the realisation of any just settlement for the Palestinian question and the Arab/Israeli conflict should be totally based on the resolutions of the international legality, mainly the Security Council's resolutions 242 and 338 calling for complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the occupied territories including Al-Quds Al-Sharif and enabling the Palestinian people of practising their legitimate right of self-determination," Mas'ud said.

Mas'ud expressed pain and sorrow over the continuation of the fierce and genocidal war being waged by the Serbian aggressive forces against the defenseless Bosnian people and attributed the continuation of war to the passive and negative stand of the international community which gave the Serbs the green light to go-ahead with their aggressive and arrogant position without fearing any punishment from the part of the international community.

He said the government of King Fahd, in the framework of its Islamic and historical responsibility, had and

continues to render all kinds of political, moral and material support for the Bosnian brothers. He said a number of popular committees for support of the Bosnian people had been formed throughout the Kingdom to collect donations for their brothers and as much as dlr 160 million have been collected so far for the noble purpose along with the reception of a number of wounded and sick Bosnian for treatment at the Saudi hospitals.

Moreover, he said, King Fahd has continued to use his good offices with brothers and friends at all regional and international forums seeking for urgent and firm steps to save the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Referring to the current situation in Afghanistan, Minister Mas'ud said the brilliant victory of the Afghan Mojahedin had been the source of delight and pride for all Moslems, but they were all shaken and deeply injured by the fighting erupted in between the brothers who made the victory of yesterday.

He stated the efforts made by the Kingdom to stop the fighting and to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan and said King Fahd had invited the leaders of the various Afghan factions for a meeting near the Holy al-Ka'abah in Mecca to sign the Mecca declaration for peace and reconciliation with the aim of restoration of peace and stability to the Islamic country.

He urged the conflicting factions to respect the Mecca declaration and implement its articles to realise the noble objectives.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abbas Returns

Assesses PNA Performance

JN0909172994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1515 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu Mazin, returned to the homeland at noon today following an absence from the homeland that lasted more than 25 years. 'Abbas will remain in the homeland for two weeks after which he will return to Tunis after meeting with His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] members in Gaza. Abu-Mazin will visit Zefat, his hometown, before leaving the homeland.

Palestinian sources say the occupation authorities rejected the return of six Arab Liberation Front Executive Committee members, including Secretary General Nasif 'Awwad. Colleague Ahmad Zaki interviewed Mahmud 'Abbas upon his return.

[Begin recording] [Zaki] Brother Abu-Mazin, we welcome you from the Voice of Palestine. How do you feel while you are in the homeland?

['Abbas] I feel like any person who was forced to leave his homeland for half a century [as heard] and who now returns to the homeland. It goes without saying that I am extremely happy.

[Zaki] How do you assess the Palestinian-Israeli agreement you signed in Oslo?

['Abbas] The Palestinian-Israeli agreement is a beginning. It is a declaration of principles. This needed protracted and difficult negotiations to translate these principles into facts. The negotiations are under way, and they are good. However, we should expect these negotiations to last for some time before attaining the definitive solution that will tackle the six points dealing with this situation.

[Zaki] How do you assess the PNA's performance four months after it started work?

['Abbas] I should see what the PNA is doing on the ground before I can judge it. I cannot, and I should not, make a judgment now, after a short period only. We should give it the time it needs. Otherwise, one can speak about big mistakes and major problems. We will be doing it an injustice if we say now that it proceeds in the right or wrong direction. We should give it time.

[Zaki] The donor countries conference will meet in Paris today. What is your assessment of the results of this conference?

['Abbas] As yet, I do not know what are the results. However, we hope that the conference will end in favor of putting into place projects for the PNA so that these projects start to serve the Palestinian people.

[Zaki] What is the nature of the present and future relations with the Palestinian opposition, especially since the Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas has announced it will form a new political party in the PNA's area?

['Abbas] Here, we must speak about democracy. The PNA should be a democratic authority. Thus, when we say a democratic authority, this means opposition and supporters. This is normal and exists in all the world.

[Zaki] How do you view the PLO's role in light of the PNA?

['Abbas] The PNA is part of the PLO. The PLO is the final authority for the PNA.

[Zaki] Thank you. [end recording]

Hundreds Greet 'Abbas Upon Arrival

TA0909130594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100
GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The top PLO official who signed the Declaration of Principles a year ago, Dr. Mahmud 'Abbas [Abu-Mazin], has arrived in the Jericho area over the Allenby

Bridge. He was welcomed this morning by the Palestinian Jericho military commander, General al- Hajj Isma'il. Hundreds of area residents greeted Abu-Mazin at the Allenby Bridge along with a delegation of Israeli Arabs, including Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi.

Meets 'Arafat, To Live in Gaza

*JN1209121294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0730 GMT 12 Sep 94*

[Text] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary of the National Authority Presidency, has said that Mahmud 'Abbas, known as Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, will continue his work in the PLO leadership as a member in the Executive Committee, the Fatah Command, and the Revolutionary Council. 'Abd-al-Rahim confirmed that Abu-Mazin met with His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat for several hours the night before last, and said 'Abbas will settle down in Gaza.

Mrs. Intisar al-Wazir, known as Umm-Jihad, minister of social affairs, said that Abu-Mazin cannot quit politics. She added that the fact that he has not yet participated in the National Authority does in any way mean he will give up politics. Abu-Mazin is scheduled to visit the city of al-Tayyibah, in the Triangle, today, and to visit his birthplace, the city of Safad, tomorrow after a 50-year-long absence.

Opposition Meets in Gaza, Warns 'Arafat

*JN1109191394 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab
Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Sep 94*

[Text] Palestinian forces opposed to the treasonous Oslo agreement held a meeting at the Arab Journalists League's headquarters in Gaza today. The conferees discussed the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and current issues, especially after the 'Arafatist arrest campaign against dozens of our people's mujahidin and strugglers.

At noon today, the conferees held a news conference. Speakers in this conference discussed the arrests launched by the 'Arafatist police and ways to end them. Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami emphasized that continued jihad is a religious duty. He indicated that there is no force that can stop jihad as long as the land of Palestine is under occupation.

Following the meeting and the news conference, the Palestinian opposition forces issued a statement, which reads:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

So lose not heart, nor fall into despair: For ye must gain mastery if ye are true in faith. [Koranic verse] Freedom to the political detainees in the [Palestinian] Authority's prisons. Our people are completely rightful in their struggle against the occupation.

O our people's heroic masses: The political forces and the masses of our entire people have followed, with extreme concern and indignation, the campaign of arrests and indiscriminate storming operations launched by the self-rule police organizations against dozens of mujahidin and strugglers among the activists of the national and Islamic forces, against the background of the political positions taken by those forces that reject the Oslo-Cairo agreements.

The statement adds: This campaign primarily aims to keep our people from carrying out their sacred duty and right to confront the occupation. It aims to demonstrate allegiance to the occupation's government, and to confirm this authority's good conduct by playing the role designated by the occupation in accordance with the agreements signed by the Oslo-Cairo parties.

The statement continues: While pointing to the seriousness of this shameful conduct by the authority, to the threat it poses to national unity, and to its opening of a bloody new chapter in our people's life by going back on their achievements and the lengthy struggle to entrench freedom of political action—a freedom our people extricated with their sacrifices even under the worst circumstances of occupation—the Islamic and national forces signing this statement stress their refusal to yield to these pressures and dictates.

They emphasize their determination to continue the jihad and struggle with relentless resolve in order to thwart the occupation, so our people can obtain full freedom.

These forces warn the 'Arafatist authority against persisting in these serious policies. They urge all national, religious, and social forces, bodies, and institutions to intervene in order to end these practices that are hostile to our people, and to isolate those responsible for them and call them to public account.

The statement was signed by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas; the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine; and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

'Arafat, Reportedly Intensifying Contacts With Hamas

*JN1209073794 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 12 Sep 94
p 1*

[Text] AL-MAJD has learned that Yasir 'Arafat recently intensified his covert and overt contacts with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in and outside the occupied homeland.

Reliable sources said that 'Arafat has voiced readiness through his messages and envoys sent to the Hamas leaders to discuss Hamas' conditions and demands, including the jihad and armed struggle option.

In two initiatives which show how eager he is to get closer to Hamas, 'Arafat recently visited the Islamic University in Gaza, a Hamas stronghold, and agreed to grant a license to a pro-Hamas newspaper at the request of 'Imad al-Faluji, one of those who assumed the Hamas command following the arrest of its founder Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

Reliable sources said that 'Arafat is eager to hold a dialogue with Hamas, and win it over, so he can extricate himself from the crises resulting from his disagreement with Jordan, Israel, and most of the Palestinian factions, not to mention Fatah leaders.

'Arafat fears Jordan will opt for Hamas to replace him just as Israel has opted for Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] who is preparing himself to do just that.

Jordanian sources told AL-MAJID that Jordan, which has well-known fraternal relations with Hamas, actually thinks of further enhancing this relationship, not to spite 'Arafat as he believes, but because the influence of Hamas in and outside the occupied territories is increasing while 'Arafat is losing his influence day by day.

Jordanian Government sources also said that the Hamas leaders abide by what they say and keep their promises. As for 'Arafat, everyone knows that he neither abides by what he promises nor means what he says.

'Arafat Vows To Continue Arrests; Opposition Groups Protest

TA1109134394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said he will continue to arrest members of the Islamic Jihad. The members of this organization, 'Arafat asserted, threatened his life. The PLO chairman was speaking to a Peace Now delegation visiting his offices in Gaza city. 'Arafat said the Palestinian Authority has decided to hold elections during the first week of November, following a one-month election campaign.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the Peace Now delegates sought to arrange meetings between Palestinians and Israelis. 'Arafat acceded to their request and entrusted Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh with preparing the first convention.

Three opposition groups held a news conference in Gaza city to protest the arrests carried out by the Palestinian security services. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem notes that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] representatives were not present at the news conference. 'Abdallah Shami, a leader of the Islamic Jihad, said that the Palestinian Authority, led by 'Arafat, is illegal and has forcibly imposed itself on the Palestinian people.

Meets With Peace Now Delegations

JN1209130694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has confirmed the existence of some difficulties in dealing with the World Bank and of obstacles placed by the donor states. He called for self-reliance to build the Palestinian state, with its capital Jerusalem.

Upon his inauguration of a vegetables and flowers packing factory in Bayt Lahiyah, his excellency expressed his joy and confidence in the Palestinian people's ability to overcome difficulties.

In another development, President 'Arafat met with a delegation from the Israeli Peace Now Movement in his office yesterday. He discussed with them the Israeli obstacles impeding the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. Following the meeting, delegation member Hadi Shafiq said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's demands regarding the peace process are tough. He expressed his conviction that the peace process will continue and voiced his movement's support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Police Prevent DFLP From Holding Conference in Gaza

TA0909191794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] The Palestinian police prevented members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] from holding the third DFLP conference at the Christian Youth Society in Gaza today. The police closed the streets leading to the society's headquarters and prevented the DFLP members from entering and convening the conference, which was supposed to last from 1000 to 1300. Our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid reports that Mr. Buhad Ghawshah, a leading DFLP activist, criticized the Palestinian police's behavior and said that is a continuation of the campaign of detentions the police are conducting against the ranks of DFLP members.

Police Release 45 Islamic Jihad, DFLP Members

JN0909164394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] A Palestinian Authority official said today that 45 members of the Islamic Jihad and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] were released today. The official said 34 of them belong to the Islamic Jihad and 11 to the DFLP.

All 45 members were arrested last Monday [5 September] following an armed attack by the Jihad Movement on an Israeli patrol in the Gaza Strip, killing one soldier and wounding two others.

Islamic Jihad Terrorists Flee From Prison

TA1109055994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500
GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] The two Islamic Jihad terrorists who perpetrated the attack at Morag junction last week and were arrested by the Palestinian police have fled from prison. Yasir 'Arafat ordered the arrest of the Palestinian police officer who had been in charge of keeping them in custody.

A senior Israeli security source told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that 'Arafat does not order the detention of terrorists who perpetrated attacks against Israelis because he is afraid to bring them to trial. This is also why he ordered no arrest of the members of Islamic Jihad's military arm in the latest wave of arrests.

'Arafat Disbands Security Body Because of Clashes

TA1009140994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200
GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has ordered the disbandment of one of his many security bodies, the one called the Presidential Security Apparatus, under the command of Colonel 'Adil Salah. Yesterday, 'Arafat ordered that the Jericho office of this apparatus be closed. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the apparatus was disbanded due to the occurrence of violent clashes between the subordinates of Col. Salah and those of Jibril al-Rujub, head of the preventive security service in the PLO. In one of those clashes, two weeks ago, a Fatah activist was killed in the Tulkarm area.

The violent clashes between the two Palestinian security apparatuses are one of the reasons that officials and organizations in the city have called on the PLO to make sure that Tulkarm is the first West Bank city, after Jericho, to be handed over to the Palestinian Authority. It has become apparent that, in addition to the killing of the Fatah activist, Tulkarm has witnessed incidents in which shots were fired and cars and shops were torched.

PNA Sets Nov Election Date, Discusses Donor Conference

JN1109075694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1515 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[Text] The Palestinian National Authority's [PNA] government met in Gaza today under the leadership of President Yasir 'Arafat. Discussions dealt with several issues, the most important being the results of the donor countries conference in Paris, the reasons for obstructing the decision to continue assistance to the PNA, the meetings Transport and Communications Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad held in Amman last week and the results he attained. At their weekly session, the ministers discussed the question of elections, and how to consolidate dialogue with Palestinian opposition factions.

Social Affairs Minister Intisar al-Wazir, Umm-Jihad, said that a decision was made to hold PNA elections on 1 November.

Hasan Tahbub, head of the Higher Islamic Council in Jerusalem, was appointed Awqaf minister for the PNA.

At the invitation of President 'Arafat, Knesset members 'Abd-al- Wahhab Darawshah and Talab al-Sani' joined today's meeting. Following the meeting, Darawshah said that President 'Arafat asked him to convey a message to the Israeli people on the Israelis violations of the provisions of the agreement, the return of displaced Palestinians, and the issue of detainees. Darawshah said that President 'Arafat asked him to raise these issues and to ask the Israeli Government to release Palestinian detainees from Israeli jails.

Fatah Militia Leader at 'Ayn al-Hulwah Resigns

NC1209090394 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 7 Sep 94
p 6

["Exclusive" to AL-SAFIR from Sidon]

[Text] A dissident opponent of 'Arafat's leadership of Fatah at 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, Colonel Munir al-Maqdah, has cast off his patched uniform and declared his return to civilian life as a result of his frustration with Palestinian conditions since the recent developments in the peace process.

Al-Maqdah, who after the signing of the Gaza-Jericho peace agreement took control of Fatah's offices and institutions in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, said: Everything has developed contrary to what we would like. I will not be a witness to the attempts currently underway to exterminate the Palestinian people and destroy their identity in Lebanon by first housing the Palestinians, then naturalizing them, and finally resettling them. We have been left with no way out at this sensitive stage. All we know about our situation in Lebanon is what we read in the papers. We are in a difficult situation; and events are proceeding as planned. Therefore, I will be casting off my military uniform and temporarily giving up Palestine until some concept of resistance to these projects becomes clarified in the minds of other people, particularly the opposition. Even the voice of the "ten factions" is no longer being heard. We have no reference point. The popular committees have taken over all the positions and are playing a major role. The factions are suffering from a financial crisis. Most of them have dismissed between 40 to 60 percent of their men. Offices are open only during the day and are left without guards. The institutions of the revolution are virtually paralyzed.

It is worth noting here that during the latest appointments within the Fatah leadership in Lebanon, 'Arafat made Khalid al- Shayib responsible for the militias at 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, replacing Badi' Karim. Al-Shayib is one of the men closest to al- Maqdah. 'Arafat also appointed Sultan Abu al-'Aynayn supervisor of the militias, replacing Kamal Midhat.

Algeria

Top FLN Official Wounded; Villagers Killed

NC1209113894 Paris AFP in English 1018 GMT
12 Sep 94

[Text] Algiers, Sept 12 (AFP)—A top official in Algeria's former sole ruling party, the National Liberation Front (FLN), has been shot and wounded at Berrahal near the eastern town of Annaba, the security services said Monday [12 September].

H'mida Mansri, a member of the central committee of the FLN, was shot Tuesday as he was sitting with friends in a cafe, the security services said, but they did not say who carried out the attack.

In the past two years, dozens of local FLN officials and activists have been killed in attacks attributed to Moslem fundamentalist guerrillas, but Mansri was the first senior official of the party to be targeted.

In another incident, Islamic extremists decapitated five people, including four fathers of policemen, in a small village near Jijel on the east coast of Algeria, the El Watan daily reported Monday.

The group went into Amir Assas village last Thursday night in search of the police officers. Unable to find them, the gang instead seized their fathers and a former independence war veteran.

The victims were taken to a wood where their heads were cut off with knives, the paper said.

Moslem guerrillas have waged a bloody campaign against the authorities since the army in January 1992 cancelled the second round of the first free general election since independence from France 30 years earlier, which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

Jailed FIS Leaders Demand Voice for 'Armed Wing'

NC1009064494 Paris AFP in English 2257 GMT
9 Sep 94

[Text] Algiers, Sept 9 (AFP)—Jailed leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) called Friday for their "armed wing" to be allowed to take part on an equal footing in any dialogue with the Algerian authorities.

The call came in a letter addressed to President Liamine Zeroual and other parties taking part in the dialogue between the government and opposition groups which opened on August 21 and which is due to reopen on September 20.

The letter, dated Tuesday [6 September] and seen by AFP, was signed by FIS president Abassi Madani and four colleagues currently held in the military prison at

Blida: Noureddine Chigara, Abdelkader Omar, Kamal Guemmazi and Ali Belhadj.

Their demand came as Zeroual spoke of the "threats made by the terrorists to disturb the start of the school and university term," on Saturday.

Speaking at a cabinet meeting, and without actually naming the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which made the threats, Zeroual underlined the problems such comments posed to the education sector.

He hit out at the "destructive" acts of "blind terrorism" which he said aimed at depriving the country's youth of the right to knowledge and blighting the future hopes of an entire people.

Security forces have gone on alert in anticipation of possible attacks on school and college buildings when the academic year starts since the GIA said last week it would attack schools unless women teachers and girls who have reached puberty wore the veil.

The terrorist group also demanded the abolition of mixed classes as well as a ban on the teaching of music and physical education for girls.

The five signatories to the FIS letter said they refused to enter talks with the government while in prison and said they would only envisage contacts with the authorities when they were "completely" free to meet with the various wings of the organisation at home and abroad, as well as leaders "imprisoned or interned in camps."

They stressed they were "only a part of the leadership" of the Islamic movement and were keen to "find a real and radical solution to the crisis" in Algeria.

Madani last month wrote two letters to Zeroual in which he proposed the freeing of jailed Islamic militants in return for a military truce and participation by the FIS in dialogue with the government.

Council of Ministers, President Zeroual Meet

LD1009010994 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers met today under the chairmanship of President Liamine Zeroual. [passage omitted]

The council heard a presentation by the prime minister on the government action since the last meeting of the Council of Ministers. At the beginning of its agenda, the council heard presentations by the foreign minister, the interior minister, and the finance minister concerning respectively the diplomatic, security, and economic situation. Intervening in the debates, the head of state spoke about the issue of travelling between Algeria and Morocco, and said that measures taken in this respect were dictated by preserving the dignity and interests of our country and citizens. At the same time, the head of state urged the government to see to it that Moroccan

nationals living in Algeria are well treated. He also called on the government to ensure a normal, quick pace of the activity of the Arab Maghreb Union currently chaired by our country; this remains a special strategic option for Algeria.

Concerning his recent visit to Libya, the head of state said this visit was liable to strengthen our ties with fraternal Libya and hasten the materialization of results achieved during the meeting of the higher joint committee for cooperation. In this connection, the head of state urged the government to closely follow up the various domains of cooperation between the two countries. [passage omitted]

With regard to reviving economic growth, there will be a strict follow-up of the program of activities of the sectors that support economic growth, particularly housing and home building. Other sectors include small and medium-sized businesses where efforts will focus on strengthening the private sector; hydrocarbons where efforts will continue to increase production by resorting to partnership; tourism as a new source of income and that must follow an elaborate policy; and agriculture, which must exploit all its potentials to improve the agricultural trade balance. [passage omitted]

President Zeroual noted that the government program comes within the framework of the country's current and future commitments with international monetary institutions. On this occasion, the head of state said an economic growth rate of three percent had been fixed for 1994, and he noted that we would not be able to reach this growth rate if we continued to manage our imports in a bureaucratic manner. Our current financial possibilities, the head of state said, enable us to supply our factories better with raw materials, but unfortunately, he still sees delays and slowness in our management of foreign trade. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers also heard presentations by the national education minister and the higher education minister concerning new academic year. In his presentation, the education minister spoke about the difficult conditions of the return to schools this year in the management of basic teaching structures and basic social structures of the education sector, given the criminal sabotage of educational institutions. This is in addition to the traditional increase in the number of schoolchildren, which this year attained 7,140,000 pupils, including 738,000 who went to school for the first time. [passage omitted]

It is worth noting that the government and concerned state services have taken important measures to face up to terrorists' threats to obstruct the return to schools and universities and provide necessary security guarantees for pupils and teachers throughout the national territory. [passage omitted]

Schools Open Without Incident Despite Threats

NC1009110594 Paris AFP in English 1012 GMT
10 Sep 94

[Text] Algiers, Sept 10 (AFP)—About eight million youngsters returned to school after the long summer break Saturday with none of the trouble or unrest forecast by Algeria's extreme Islamic fundamentalist group, the GIA.

The police remained extremely discreet around and in front of schools and colleges in Algiers on Saturday, AFP correspondents said.

The number of young girls or women teachers wearing the Islamic veil did not appear greater than last year and mixed groups of youngsters were seen chatting at the schools and universities.

Last week the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) laid down four conditions for a "normal beginning" to the school year in schools for six to 15-year-olds: women teachers and pubescent girls should wear the Islamic veil, classes should be single-sex and girls should be banned from music and gymnastics classes.

It maintained, however, its threat to "dissuasively punish" teachers and students who returned to colleges and universities.

Over the past two months 538 teaching establishments suffered arson or other attacks blamed on armed Islamic groups.

The groups are attempting to overthrow the military-backed government and impose fundamentalist Islamic rule in the country.

Security Services Report Clashes With 'Terrorists'

Nine 'Terrorists' Killed in Souayeh

LD0909193094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1830 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] A communique issued by security services today said that security forces yesterday killed nine terrorists in Souayeh in the Algiers municipality of Saoula.

The source confirmed that the security forces seized an MAS sub-machine gun which had been taken from the three French gendarmes who had been killed in a French school in Ain Allah in the capital [on 3 August]

According to the source, at the same time the security forces liberated a citizen kidnapped in the Algiers suburb of Birkhadem on 4 September by the group whose members were killed.

13 'Terrorists' Killed in Haouch Mokhfi

LD1009195194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1830 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] The security forces today announced that they killed 13 terrorists on 8 September in Haouch Mokhfi, in

the municipality of Reghaia, Boumerdas Province. The security services were acting on a tip from a terrorist gained at his confession. Sources report that efforts are currently under way to identify additional terrorists.

The same sources add that during this operation the security forces managed to recover a number of pistols, shotguns and ammunition, in addition to a quantity of medicines and subversive literature.

16 'Terrorists' Killed 6-10 Sep

LD1109194894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Sixteen terrorists, including two from among the killers of the Dean of the Bab Ezzouar University, were killed between last Tuesday and Saturday [6-10 September], according to a statement issued by the security services.

Three terrorists for whom the security forces had been searching were found and liquidated Saturday in Dar El Beida. They were: (Derkaoui Abdelsmad), alias Abu al-Haytham, the leader of the terrorist group last active in the Dar El Beida, (Bab Ezzouar) and (Bourourab Abdelkerim).

Meanwhile, the security services killed two terrorists last Friday at Boudouar Bousedraia. In addition, another terrorist was killed in the same municipality. Two shotguns were also retrieved. In the wilayah of Msilia the security forces last Thursday killed three terrorists at Oued Hrerou

'Terrorist' Killed in Zighout Youcef

LD1109211294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] We have just heard that a terrorist sentenced to death and who escaped from Tazoult, Mr. Massei (Hassan), was killed today in Zighout Youcef, near Constantine, as he was trying to attack two police officers outside a school. This has just been announced by the security forces.

Massei Hassan was arrested in October 1992 during an attack against a police roadblock. He had killed several people and carried out several acts of sabotage. He was the leader of his group operating mainly in the district called Chalet des Pins in Constantine.

It was also in Constantine that he organized the terrorist network in which a computer engineer was involved.

Two Suspected Assassins Killed

NC1209071394 Paris AFP in English 2131 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Algiers, Sept 11 (AFP)—Two people believed to have taken part in the May assassination of the rector of Algeria's largest university, were killed by police over the weekend, Algerian officials said Sunday [11 September].

Abdessemed Derkaoui, known as Abu El-Haithem, and Abdelkrim Rourab were killed Saturday by police in the suburb of Dar El Beida, east of Algiers, officials said.

Derkaoui led an Islamic militant group that operates in the area. Police said they recovered two automatic handguns.

Salah Djebaili, rector of the Bab Ezzouar university of science and technology, was killed on May 31 by several armed men in the university's parking lot.

Djebaili's bodyguard and chauffeur were also killed in the attack, which was attributed to Islamic militants.

More than 20 university personnel have been killed by armed Islamic groups in Algeria in the past year and a half. Most recently, Rabah Stambouli, a sociologist and Islamic studies professor, was shot dead outside his home on August 23.

FIS Leader Arrested

LD1009134394 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The daily EL HIWAR, the FLN [National Liberation Front] mouthpiece, has announced that Achour Ribihi, a FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leader, was arrested recently. His arrest has already been announced by Shaykh Sahraoui, a founding member of the FIS and an imam in a Paris mosque.

Egypt

Mubarak Phones Syrian, Saudi Leaders

NC0809210194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a telephone conversation with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad this evening. The two leaders exchanged views regarding a number of issues, particularly the outcome of the ongoing contacts with the parties concerned with the peace process.

President Mubarak also held a telephone conversation with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. President Mubarak and King Fahd discussed their coordination and understanding of international and Islamic issues. They also exchanged views on Arab issues.

It is worth noting that during his meeting with the journalists after inspecting the Egyptian products fair yesterday, President Mubarak reiterated the profound distinguished relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Columnist: 'Hard' To Forget Iraqi Crimes

NC0709162694

[Editorial Report] In a 3,000-word article in his weekly column "The Political Situation" on pages 1 and 9 of AKHBAR AL-YAWM on 3 September, Chief Editor

Ibrahim Sa'dah explains why it is "hard if not impossible" to forget the "crimes and sins of the Iraqi regime" and raise the slogan of "removing the effects of aggression."

He believes that the ruling Iraqi regime is "as bad, if not worse than Israel" because both plotted against and occupied other states' lands. He points out that it is not the Kuwaiti people alone who lost confidence in the Iraqi regime, led by Saddam Husayn, since the majority of Arab states share a common hatred for it, "their most hostile enemy," as Sa'dah puts it.

Affirming that it is unavoidable to understand the pains and fears of the Kuwaiti people, Sa'dah contends that what the Iraqi regime did to Kuwait could have been repeated in the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia very easily if non-Gulf states had taken a neutral stance and had rejected international intervention to force the Iraqi regime to withdraw its troops from Kuwait. This explained, he says, that these states "had no other alternative but to join the UN-sponsored international alliance" to stop aggression on a fraternal Arab state. He recalls the many initiatives President Mubarak presented "to persuade the Iraqi president to turn to reason." Failing in that, Mubarak had no alternative but to take part in using force to rescue the Kuwaiti people, Sa'dah says.

Despite his lightning defeat, Saddam imagined that he had "lost a battle but not the war." He falsified reality by "turning defeat into victory," Sa'dah says. This, he explains, convinced the Kuwaiti people that "the crushing defeat inflicted on their enemy had not made it lose hope in repeating aggression." He affirms that this "gives the Kuwaiti citizen the right to question every word that comes out of Baghdad and every action or statement attributed to the head of the ruling Iraqi regime. This lack of trust on the Kuwaitis' part is aggravated by Saddam's insistence on ignoring most of the UN Security Council resolutions he had earlier accepted as a condition for his capitulation."

Sa'dah maintains that Saddam imagined that he could deceive the entire world by pretending to comply with international resolutions. But he soon stalled in implementing these resolutions and started to put obstacles before the international experts who were tasked with destroying his internationally banned weapons, he explains. This conduct, Sa'dah adds, doubled the Kuwaitis' concerns and confirmed their fear that "the Iraqi president has indeed lost a battle, but is getting ready for another war and a new aggression."

Sa'dah maintains that "it is unfair to accuse the Kuwaitis, and the Gulf states in general, of overstating their fears and doubts about Saddam Husayn. The head of the ruling Iraqi regime so far has not provided a single piece of evidence that he has abandoned aggression or that he recognizes the Kuwaiti people's rights and sovereignty on their land. More surprising still is that

Saddam Husayn—right up to this moment—defies the Kuwaitis' feelings and refuses to return their victims, the innocent prisoners of war."

Sa'dah notes here that the Iraqi regime has started a series of contacts with organizations and governments all over the world "in an attempt to evade its international responsibilities" and lift the embargo imposed on it. To do this, Iraq has to honor all its commitments as stipulated by UN resolutions. But it has not done so, according to Sa'dah.

He believes that "no fair man can object to the Kuwaiti stance and its right to secure its borders, so long as the usurper who invaded and occupied Kuwait is still the only and absolute ruler in Iraq." He adds that those who demand the lifting of the embargo on Iraq to save the Iraqis should link their demand with the condition that Iraq should comply with all international resolutions, particularly respecting Kuwait's independence and sovereignty.

Conceding that the Iraqi people are worthy of sympathy because "they are afflicted with the most repulsive ruling regime in history," he warns against forgetting the sufferings of the Kuwaiti people.

Concluding, he says: "Before we give advice or make judgments, cry for the sufferings of the fraternal Iraqi people, and criticize the rigid Kuwaiti stance, we have to determine the party who was solely responsible for the crimes against all Arab people, primarily the Iraqis." He finally finds it strange that some people "suffice themselves with sympathizing with the executioner, while turning a deaf ear to the cries and moans of the aggrieved."

Editor Denounces Iraqi Tactics Against Egypt

NC1109091494 Cairo MFNA in Arabic 0652 GMT
11 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has denounced the Iraqi regime for resorting to vituperation, abuse, and blackmail against Egypt after Egypt refused to take part in Iraq's latest ploy of claiming that there is an Iraqi overture for Arab reconciliation and for rectifying the consequences of its treacherous aggression against Kuwait. In his daily column today, Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar says that the treacherous leadership in Baghdad is very displeased that in every decision it makes the Egyptian leadership is only governed by national and pan-Arab interests and that it refuses to use let its name be implicated in mean plots and lies.

Duwaydar says that if the alleged Iraqi overture was genuine and based on sound and acceptable policies, Egypt, prompted by its pan-Arab responsibilities, could not have rejected it. But the whole affair was a figment of their imagination. He stressed that the Iraqi regime knows full well that the problem of the embargo imposed on it cannot be resolved by a false overture or rumors

circulated by its clique. There is only one way to achieve this goal: that is, compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Duwaydar says that this is not the first time that the Iraqi regime has told lies: It lied excessively before the Gulf War. Their utter defeat exposed this regime, a defeat from which the Iraqi people are still suffering. This regime has persisted in its lies, trying to convince its people that it won the Gulf War.

Duwaydar says that Saddam's clique—who use vituperative language against Egypt—only follows Saddam because they fear physical liquidation, because they know they will be hunted like rats after the tyrant falls. He stresses that Saddam Husayn is the only one responsible for the Iraqi people's tragedy. The people will settle accounts with him painfully and decisively.

Four Inmates Injured in Prison Disturbance

NC0809130094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—Four inmates in the Turah Prison, south of Cairo, sustained various wounds when a big brawl ensued among a group of dangerous inmates who were trying to extort protection money from the other inmates.

Major General Nabil Siyam, assistant minister of interior and director of the Prisons Department, was informed that four inmates imprisoned for robbery were trying to compel the other inmates to pay them protection money when a big fight ensued, causing a commotion within the prison. The guards and the central security forces had to intervene and managed to bring the situation under control.

The following persons were wounded in the fight: Ashraf Zaynhum, 26 years old; 'Imad Husayn, 27; Sayyid Abu-Muhammad, 20; and Karam Hashim, 28.

Those involved were referred to the prosecutor for questioning. Meanwhile, security has been increased for the other inmates to keep the situation under control.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Asks Group To Analyze U.S. Mosque Fire

LD0909204694 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] It was revealed in California today that the fire which destroyed a mosque in Yuba City last week was deliberately set. Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, brother leader of the revolution, leader of the World Islamic People's Command, has asked the General Secretariat of the World Islamic People's Command to send a commission of experts and specialists to investigate the incident.

Belgian Envoy To Relay Message for Clinton

LD1209084094 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Official Libyan sources have announced that the Libyan foreign minister [secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation] yesterday summoned the Belgian ambassador in Tripoli, who also represents U.S. interests in Libya, and charged him with carrying a verbal message from Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi to President Bill Clinton, the contents of which have not been revealed. [passage omitted]

Declaration of Unity With Syria Commemorated

LD1009193594 Tripoli JANA in English 1827 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Tripoli, Al Fateh 10 (September 10)—This day coincides with the 14th anniversary of the Declaration of Unity between the great Jamahiriya and the Syrian Arab Republic as a great step on the path of total Arab unity in response to the unionist appeal made by the leader of the revolution on the 11th anniversary of the great al-Fateh revolution calling for an integral unity between the great Jamahiriya and Syria.

This historic declaration was consistent with aspirations of the masses of the Arab nation for the realization of total Arab unity so as to confront the deteriorating situation suffered by the Arab generation including fragmentation, backwardness, oppression and exploitation. Unity is the sole way for liberation and ultimate emancipation, the only option to confront the economic and political blocs in the world and to stand in the face of the plots hatched against the Arab nation threatening its entity and future.

Morocco

Weapons Seized in Joint French Operation

LD1009124994 Rabat MAP in English 1230 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Rabat, Sep.10 (MAP)—Moroccan security services seized Friday in Al Hoceima (northern Morocco) two Kalashnikov rifles hidden in a mattress by a man arrested Thursday in France, the Moroccan Ministry of the Interior announced. According to the same source, following the arrest in Orleans (France) on September 8 of Zerouali Farid who confessed that he came to Morocco last August with Ben Haddou Mustapha to this latter's father house in Al Hoceima and hidden weapons in a mattress, the Moroccan security services searched the house and found 2 Kalashnikov rifles hidden in a mattress. The new seizure was made as part of an extensive manhunt operation in Morocco and France in connection with several armed attacks committed in Morocco this summer.

More Citizens Repatriated From Tunisia

LD1009130094 Rabat MAP in English 1223 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Tunis, Sep. 10 (MAP)—A plane carrying over 200 Moroccans stranded in Tunisia following the Algerian decision to close all its land borders with Morocco, left this Saturday the Tunis-Carthage airport back to Morocco.

This is the second plane dispatched by Moroccan authorities to repatriate Moroccan nationals coming from Tunisia or Libya blocked in the borders with Algeria. With this new flight, it is expected that the car ferry held off in the Tunisian port of La Goulette will be able to sail off. The departure of the car ferry was delayed after Tunisian authorities decided to drive back on the same boat 180 Moroccan presented as illegal residents.

Moroccan sources in Tunisia said most of the 180 so called illegal residents are tourists among which there were students or other Moroccans legally settled in Tunisia.

The Hassan II Foundation of Moroccans living abroad also dispatched Friday the "Bismillah" car ferry with a delegation from the Ministry of the Moroccan Community Abroad, physicians and mediacids to assist Moroccans blocked in Algeria. The boat is expected to moor to the port of Tangiers Sunday.

Commenting the incident, Moroccan 'L'OPINION' daily said this is not the first Tunisian act of unmotivated hostility towards Morocco. A story titled "Tunis Blocks the Moroccans' Repatriation" stressed that Tunisian authorities took advantage of the car ferry sent by Morocco to proceed to round ups of some 180 persons that they presented as illegal residents and embarked them on the boat which has only a capacity of 480 passengers. The daily of the Istiqlal Party (nationalist/opposition) which protests this behavior as unacceptable recalled that last May Tunisia also massively expelled some 700 Moroccans. The daily also quoted governmental sources as saying that the Moroccan Foreign Ministry summoned Tunisian ambassador to Morocco and asked him for explanations on the Tunisian decision.

Deported Citizens Complain of Mistreatment

LD1109101794 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Casablanca, 11 Sep—Over 200 Moroccan nationals who had been stranded in Tunisia for a few days arrived at the Mohamed V International airport yesterday evening on board two Royal Air Maroc planes.

The exhaustion and fatigue which was obvious on those Moroccans and their families on arrival was proof of the harsh conditions and the suffering they had experienced in Tunisia in the last few days.

A number of Moroccans who have been deported spoke about the conditions of their detention and their suffering in Tunisia.

One of the deportees wondered about the reasons of his deportation despite the fact that he had been legally resident in Tunisia for two years and despite the fact that he has a social security card and a medical treatment card, as well as having paid taxes. Another Moroccan, who had been resident in Tunisia for five years, expressed his surprise at the Tunisian authorities' deportation of Moroccans, confining them to detention for several days in humiliating conditions and under all forms of suffering. He went on to say that he had a large sum of money when he was arrested by the Tunisian police.

Another Moroccan national protested at the way he had been treated by Tunisian security services, saying that even if he had committed a crime, the Tunisian authorities should have treated him according to the regulations in force. He added that the security forces who had arrested him at his home and threw him immediately in prison tore up his identity card. He stressed that this treatment contravened the spirit of brotherhood and the principles of [word indistinct]. He said that he was returning to his family after two years, deprived of his property and belongings. He praised the honesty and straightness of Moroccan nationals residing and working in Tunisia.

Sudan

Government Supports Arab Unity Efforts

EA0209141894 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, minister of state for political affairs in the office of the president of the Republic, has reaffirmed Sudan's support for the initiative of Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan al-Nahayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, to heal the rift among the Arabs. He also expressed support for all the Arab initiatives seeking to transcend the effects of the Gulf war. This was said during an interview conducted with him by AL-SHURUQ magazine, published in the United Arab Emirates.

His excellency pointed out in the interview that elections for the Legislative Councils of States in Sudan will be held next March within the framework of expanding the circle of consultation and participation, and enabling the citizens in the states to play their full role in the national construction.

Accord Reached on Eritrean Refugee Repatriation

EA0909202594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] An agreement has been signed between the government and the UNHCR representative in Khartoum

on the beginning of the voluntary repatriation of Eritrean refugees to their country.

Dr. Ahsana al-Ghafshaw, the commissioner for refugees, announced that the representatives had agreed to resettle 25,000 refugees in the first stage, before the end of the year. She pointed out that a tripartite working group composed of representatives from Sudan, Eritrea, and the UNHCR would supervise the operations to repatriate them.

Dr. Ahsana al-Ghafshaw added that this step came within the framework of what had been agreed upon between Sudan and Eritrea in a joint statement issued after discussions between the two countries, which were held when Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih visited Asmara last month.

Dr. Ahsana al-Ghafshaw was in Addis Ababa the day before yesterday to attend the international symposium on refugees and displaced persons. Sudan's delegation was headed by Dr. Ibrahim Abu-Awf, the minister of state for social planning. In her statement, al-Ghafshaw said Sudan's participation in the symposium arose from its responsibility as a member of the OAU, and pointed out that it was one of the states on the continent which had a large number of refugees.

Al-Bashir Amenable to Any Peace Initiative

EA1109165494 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] The president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, has said the government is interested in the cause of peace. He said the government is making persistent efforts and pursuing a peaceful solution to the southern problem. He declared that Sudan would accept any initiative toward finding a peaceful solution to the problem. This is what he told the opposition British Labor Party parliamentary delegation currently visiting the country yesterday.

The leader of the delegation said the meeting had touched on efforts towards achieving peace in the country, adding that the delegation had submitted an initiative to promote the peace efforts. He went on to say that Lt. Gen. 'Umar had briefed the delegation on the state of human rights and religious practices in the country, as well as on the economic situation and the government's efforts to render the policy of self-reliance successful.

Al-Bashir on al-Turabi, Relations With Egypt

MM0909102294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Sep 94 p 4

[Interview with President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir by Sawsan Abu-Husayn; place and date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] Do you believe that your initiative to suspend media campaigns between Egypt and Sudan is sufficient as a start to contain the differences?

[Al-Bashir] I announced the importance of suspending media campaigns because of the Egyptian media's exaggeration in portraying the relationship between the two countries. It is a sensitive point, because escalating it would lead to unjustifiable deteriorations, especially as the Sudanese side did not initiate the problem. Every action upon which we embarked was a reaction to what Egypt had done. We spoke a lot in this connection, but there was no response. And President Mubarak recently announced the suspension of the media campaigns.

As for the provocative measures the Egyptian media is talking about, they require a joint committee between the two countries to clarify the positions. We have always called for that.

[Abu-Husayn] Why don't you announce the release of the Egyptians held in Sudanese prisons?

[Al-Bashir] They include people who are sentenced in criminal cases. I invite Egypt in this connection to send a legal committee to have a look at the files of these cases and to ascertain that our measures are not outside what is commonly accepted and the stipulations of the law. Egypt also should take steps to clear the air, especially as Sudan has not wronged it in any way.

[Abu-Husayn] In your view, what are the real causes of the differences between Egypt and Sudan, especially given that the Hala'ib area has always been there but the crisis over it emerged only recently?

[Al-Bashir] Actually there are no differences between Egypt and Sudan. We stress the importance of the relations. Historical facts confirm this. Egypt is Sudan's strategic rear, and vice versa. Suffice it to say that when Israel attacked Egypt in 1967 and Israel managed to impose its air control over Sinai, Egypt placed what was left of its aircraft in Khartoum. Even Egyptian ships stayed in Port Sudan. And later the War College was transferred to Khartoum. This clearly confirms Sudan's importance to Egypt. Even when we sensed Egypt's need for war, we agreed to provide a reserve when the High Dam was being built. And the Sudanese people were generous and offered what they offered to Egypt voluntarily.

After the revolution, there was a close relationship between the two countries. Egypt supported the National Salvation Revolution. But differences began to emerge in some political positions. We believe that differing views should not harm relations. The problem started following Sudan's position on the second Gulf war, our opposition to foreign intervention, and the failure to condemn Iraq. This is in the knowledge that we did not object to Kuwait's legitimacy and its right to defend itself with Arab and Islamic forces. The Egyptian media campaign has begun since that day.

Then the Hala'ib problem began to be stirred up by the Egyptian side. We declared our position and said that Sudan believes in Arab unity, and that the Sudanese people have nothing to do with the border question. Then Abu-Ramad was attacked by Egypt, and an apology was made and the action was described as an isolated incident. But later new forces were sent to the triangle. Their number increased with the deployment of U.S. troops in Somalia. We even wondered at the time why this was happening at the same time. We also announced in Sudan that we would not engage in a war with Egypt. We just took some measures, to which Egypt retaliated, namely by hosting the Sudanese opposition, keeping the Sudanese pilot, and arresting some Sudanese figures.

[Abu-Husayn] The striking thing is that you talk about Arab unity and the importance of clearing the Arab air, while Sudan's relations with some states, first and foremost Egypt, are not proceeding normally. Why?

[Al-Bashir] We always call for eliminating tension and differences among the brothers. We always work speedily to stop any deterioration in Arab relations. And we urge everyone to transcend the border question imposed on us, Arabs. It is the problem of the age. I previously said that the relationship with Egypt is strategic, and we must in the end succeed in eliminating all the differences.

[Abu-Husayn] But it seems that the Salvation [Revolution] and its officials in Sudan have left part of the decision making for the Islamic Front, whose role has grown to the point that it seems there is another authority in control of everything. What is your opinion of what is being said, namely that al-Turabi is the regime's spiritual guide, and that that is the cause of tension in relations with Egypt?

[Al-Bashir] The National Salvation Revolution emerged when Sudan was suffering from numerous problems, most importantly the rebel movement's control of many areas. And there was no clear view of the peace process with the south. There were also considerable economic problems. Nevertheless, it managed to overcome many of these problems. It liberated the southern territory and drew up practical solutions to the problem with the rebels, like participation in power, fair distribution of wealth and development, and defining the relationship between the state and religion. But we have not managed to actually implement these steps because the movement tends to send delegations not authorized to make decisions to help achieve a solution. Although we have recaptured many positions, we are committed to negotiation and to a peaceful solution. So no one can prove that the Salvation Revolution has not shouldered its responsibility fully.

As for what is being said about al-Turabi, he is an Islamic thinker, and the revolution kept him in custody like al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani was released, then al-Turabi after that. And since his

release he has not carried out any action against us. He supports the Salvation Revolution, but he holds no official position. So he is not a spiritual guide or anything else, nor has he any intention of launching an Islamic revolution. We respect the revolution in Iran, because it was one of the first revolutions to raise a clear Islamic slogan. But Iran has its own circumstances and Sudan has its own.

Delegation Chief on Latest Round of Talks

EA0909202194 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The government delegation to the peace talks with the rebel movement, which ended yesterday in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, returned this afternoon to Khartoum.

Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, minister of state in the office of the president and head of the delegation, announced that the government delegation had carried a clear message to the rebel movement and those supporting it on the issues of relations between religion and the state and self-determination. The delegation affirmed Sudan's clear stand on these two issues. His excellency said the issue of self-determination had no legal or political basis, and he also stated that the tolerance that exists in Sudanese society did not exist in most of those states which claim to be the most democratic.

Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the head of the government delegation to the peace talks, added that the delegation had held discussions with President Moi, the chairman of the mediating committee, on ways of making the committee more effective. The delegation proposed a new mechanism, which would include setting up a standing committee composed of envoys from the states concerned, under the supervision of the Kenyan minister chairing the negotiating committee, to look into the proposals submitted during the round of talks and to keep the peace process in motion. He pointed out that the committee had understood this proposal. He said the committee would meet soon to determine the new course for the talks.

Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the head of the government delegation to the fourth round of the Nairobi peace talks, will address a news conference this evening at the Friendship Hall on the result of the latest round of the peace talks. [passage omitted]

Further on Delegation's View

EA1109170994 Nairobi KNA in English 1450 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Sept (KNA/PANA)—The Sudanese Government has rejected claims for self-determination in the war-torn southern part of its territory, as well as the call by the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] for a return to secularism. The rejection was reiterated in an interview granted by Dr.

Ghazi Salah al-Din, who led the government's delegation to the recent peace talks in Nairobi, Kenya.

In the interview, carried by the state-owned daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI on Saturday [18 September] he said the government reserved its right "to restore" under its control any area now controlled by the SPLA.

Salah al-Din said his side will not join any final arrangements for a cease-fire in the south without receiving guarantees that Sudan would continue as a united country.

He was commenting on the outcome of the latest round of peace talks the government had held with the SPLA under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, IGADD, states and which ended in Nairobi on Friday.

He stressed that his government's responsibility to ensure the unity of the country gives it the right to reject any call for a final cease-fire in the south. The minister was reacting to calls by some circles, which he did not name, for a cease-fire in the south. He accused these unnamed circles of making such calls while at the same time continuing to supply the rebels with armaments and ammunition.

However, Salah al-Din, a minister of state in the president's office, expressed his government's commitment to serious peace negotiations "that tackle crucial matters". But he said the government was unwilling to discuss agendas dictated by these circles that support the rebels and use them as a pressure card to deter the government from going ahead with its policy of Islamization and independent decision-taking.

The Sudanese Government is convinced that Western countries are behind the SPLA in its call for creating a secular state in the Sudan and the cancellation of the Islamic laws that have been applied in northern parts of the country since 1983. The south is exempt from those Islamic laws.

Speaking on his arrival in Khartoum from the Nairobi talks on Friday night, Salah al-Din said he had communicated to President Daniel arap Moi and members of the IGADD four-man committee government's rejection of the SPLA claims for separation of religion from politics and the return to secularism in Sudan. He said he had assured the IGADD mediators that the Sudanese Government was fully committed to their initiative to restore peace to the south. Salah al-Din has said the rebel call for granting the south the right to self-determination lacked legal or constitutional justification and was against the interests of Sudan and Africa and the south itself.

He said he had told the IGADD middlemen that the return to secularism was no guarantee against renewed rebellion in the south, as the current war in the south had started even before the application of Islamic shari'ah laws.

Salah al-Din said he had proposed to President Moi to set up a permanent committee under his chairmanship to revise the peace process in Sudan and to lay [down] an agenda tackling the distribution of wealth, the division of power and the creation of balanced development in Sudan within the federal rule the Sudanese Government is applying now. He said President Moi will call the heads of state of Ethiopia, Uganda and Eritrea, all members of the IGADD committee on Sudan, for a meeting to "seek a new course for the peace talks."

He said Sudan was dissatisfied with the way the previous rounds of talks were conducted, because these "concentrated on only two topics: secularism and self-determination."

The recent talks in Nairobi were attended by the American Ambassador Melissa Wells, who also attended the indecisive round of talks held in Nairobi last July.

Speaker Discusses Peace Efforts With U.S. Official

EA0809203694 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1500 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] The speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, has met with U.S. diplomat (David Cheyney), the director of the eastern and central Africa bureau in the U.S. State Department. Khalifah briefed the U.S. diplomat on the efforts being exerted by the Sudanese Government to realize peace in solving the southern problem. Efforts for maintaining peace from within were explained in detail, as well as Sudanese Government plans to form a new peace mechanism.

Army Commander: Peace Plan Being Implemented

EA0309161694 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Major General Husayn Abdullah Jibril, the commander of the Bahr al-Ghazal states military zone, has announced that returnees from the rebel movement are being absorbed into the ranks of the Armed Forces. He confirmed that the four states of Bahr al-Ghazal enjoy complete peace as a result of the unity of ranks brought about by the peace plan drawn up recently by the former governor, Major General George Kongor Arop, vice president of the Republic [as heard]. He explained that the work of implementing the peace plan is continuing under the leadership of the present governor, Ali Tamim Fartak.

He told the radio reporter that the Armed Forces have directed all their cadres to achieve development and peace and to work with the government of the state and citizens to rehabilitate the infrastructures. He added that this trend contributed to the promotion of public services.

U.S. Reportedly Seeking To Partition Sudan

NC1009104994 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Sep 94 pp 1, 7

[Article by Mahmud Bakri]

[Excerpt] The United States is currently holding intensive contacts with a number of Security Council members in an attempt to implement one of its most dangerous schemes against fraternal Sudan. The scheme aims to internationalize the issue of southern Sudan in preparation for the south's secession from the north. That would for all practical purposes partition Sudan and fragment its unity.

AL-SHA'B has learned that the U.S. efforts aim to have the Security Council issue a resolution demanding the partition of southern Sudan on the pretext of "self-determination." The United States is holding contacts with several countries to agree on a draft resolution.

According to this information, Washington claims in the first clause of the draft that the Sudanese Government is responsible for the failure thus far to reach an agreement in the peace negotiations. The second clause demands the secession of the south, the holding of a UN-supervised plebiscite there to confirm the right to self-determination, and that the southerners should have the right to establish their own state with a political, legal, and legislative system different from the existing one in northern Sudan.

The third clause of the U.S. draft underlines international and U.S. efforts, especially their attempt to intervene to solve this problem through peaceful means (according to these claims). The draft refers to what it terms the efforts of the Governmental Committee on Aid and Combating Drought [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development], which has tried to reach a peaceful solution to this problem but which has failed due to the Sudanese Government's insistence on a military solution and on imposing its views and beliefs on the southerners by force.

AL-SHA'B has also learned that U.S. consultations with European countries have not scored any success so far and that there are still major differences over clauses in the U.S. draft resolution. France is voicing strong opposition to the U.S. efforts in the Security Council. Other countries, such as Britain, believe that the issuance of such a resolution should be delayed and that work must instead begin on issuing a Security Council resolution that empowers the United Nations, and specifically the Security Council, to play a pivotal role in solving the southern problem. These countries also want the resolution to ask the UN secretary general or his representatives to hold direct talks with the Sudanese Government about the nature of the rights the southerners should enjoy and to stress the need to stop all types of military operations.

Britain believes that these international efforts, which will be defined in light of the Security Council resolution, should proceed in parallel with the efforts of the

Committee on Aid and Combating Drought in order to involve neighboring African countries in the search for a solution to the problem of the south and that the U.S. resolution confirming the independence of the south and its right to self-determination should be submitted if the Sudanese Government rejects this resolution and the negotiations between it and the United Nations fail.

The information reveals that Israel represents a third party in these negotiations. It is involved at the instigation of the United States, which believes that Israel should play a major and direct role in reaching a solution to the problem of the south.

Israeli-U.S. contacts were held at UN headquarters in New York. In these contacts, Israel proposed that the southerners' military power be strengthened, that they be supplied with the greatest possible amount of modern weapons and military equipment, and that foreign military experts oversee military operations the southerners might undertake. Israel argues that these operations would create direct pressure on the government in the north to accept any resolutions issued by the Security Council in the future.

According to this information, the United States has not consulted any Arab country yet about this new scheme after its contacts with Egypt were halted following the latter's rejection of the scheme to have the south secede from the north. [passage omitted]

Camps for 'Terrorist Groups' Said To Exceed 45

NC0809205794 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 4 Sep 94 p 9

[From the "Brothers" page]

[Text] Informed Sudanese military sources have reported that the number of camps opened by the Sudanese authorities to shelter Arab, Asian, and African terrorist groups has exceeded 45 in all provinces of Sudan. The largest camp is located in the al-Hassaniyah Mountains in the city of Shandi, where a large number of Palestinians, Egyptians, Algerians, some Asians, and Africans reside.

The Sudanese Government recently moved the camp of the Eritrean Jihad Movement from the Qawz Rajab area following a division within the group's ranks. This prompted the Sudanese authorities to detain a number of the Eritrean Jihad Movement's members, including the group's amir, who is said to have dissented from the Ansar al-Sunnah al-Muhammadiyah [advocates of Muhammedan tradition] group.

People living in the Riyad and Cooper areas have noticed that most foreigners living in the two neighborhoods have disappeared for unknown reasons following the arrest of Carlos.

Opposition Stages Antiregime Demonstration

NC0909200694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—Members of the Sudanese opposition taking part in the Forum of Popular Associations and Nongovernmental Organizations currently in

session in the covered hall at the Cairo International Stadium today staged a demonstration hostile to the regime in Sudan. They shouted anti-regime slogans and raised banners. The demonstrators toured the first and ground floors of the hall, demanding the release of political prisoners in Sudan.

Kuwait

UN Representative Denies Iraqi Abduction Allegations

LD0909131794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1216 GMT
9 Sep 94

[Text] United Nations, 9 Sep (KUNA)—The State of Kuwait has denied Iraqi allegations that a Kuwaiti police patrol abducted two young Iraqi men on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone on the border between the two states last month.

In a statement to KUNA, Muhammad Abu al-Hasan, Kuwait's permanent representative to the United Nations, described these Iraqi allegations as contradictory.

He said: "If this event had actually occurred, the two young Iraqis would have been violating the conditions of the demilitarized zone by infiltrating into the Kuwaiti side of the zone."

In a letter to the UN secretary general yesterday, the Iraqi regime alleged that a Kuwaiti patrol in the demilitarized zone, which is patrolled by international monitoring forces, had abducted two young Iraqis.

Ministry 'Source' Rejects Iraq's Bid To Lift Embargo

NC1109133194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT
11 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 11 Sep (MENA)—Kuwaiti government officials have expressed their rejection of Baghdad's ongoing attempts to persuade the Security Council to lift the economic embargo imposed on Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

A responsible source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry has told MENA's correspondent that the Iraqi regime's attempts in this regard have been exposed before world public opinion. The source added that Iraq always makes attempts before the Security Council meets every two months to review the embargo imposed on Baghdad. The source emphasized his rejection of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's overture to forget about the past and begin a new chapter. He added that the Iraqi president is not trusted by the region's people, who have lost faith in most of what he says. [passage omitted]

MENA's correspondent in Kuwait reports that the future could see a relaxation in Kuwait's relations with the countries that supported Iraq in its invasion of Kuwait. He noted that the restoration of Kuwait's diplomatic relations with both Algeria and Mauritania is expected to be announced in the very near future. This follows the visit of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to the two countries in May. Kuwaiti-Jordanian relations have seen a tangible improvement following last week's visit to Kuwait by Jordanian Foreign Ministry official Mashhur al-Zayn. The same is true of Kuwaiti-Yemeni relations.

Yemen

Security Forces, Jihad Group Clash in Aden

LD1009113394 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000
GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] The Kuwaiti news agency reported today, quoting its correspondent in Aden in southern Yemen, that armed clashes in the town between the security forces and elements from the Jihad organization began again last night.

The agency said the first security communiques indicated that 10 members of the security forces at a number of police stations in Aden were killed when these stations were subjected to surprise attacks by these elements.

Last week, Aden witnessed violent clashes between the Jihad organization and the security forces which led to the killing of dozens of people on both sides.

Official Claims Arms Still 'Stockpiled' in Aden

MM0909143894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in
Arabic 8 Sep 94 p 5

[Telephone interview with Interior Under Secretary 'Ali Mansur Rashid, in Aden, by Lutfi Shatarah, in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shatarah] What are the results of investigations with those involved in the armed confrontation with security services and the Army last week?

[Rashid] Those are groups calling themselves "Salafis" [reformists]. They belong to no specific organization. Many of them were pursued and harassed in the days of the Yemeni Socialist Party's [YSP] rule of the south. Some of them played a role in the recent war against the separatists. The others supported the separatists. But according to the confessions made by many of them, they have a religious objective. And they say that tombs are a heresy.

[Shatarah] Are they members of the Jihad organization?

[Rashid] We cannot determine their political framework. They are not members of the Yemeni Reform Grouping. They are elements with Salafi inclinations. Their problem is that they want to turn their beliefs into a reality. They ignored the role of the state and its services. But we stress that confronting the errors and the practices violating religion and the Shari'ah is the state's job. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] What is your estimate of the quantity of arms present in Aden, and have they been withdrawn from citizens?

[Rashid] Arms are stockpiled in Aden. The YSP distributed thousands of pieces in the city. Nevertheless, we have not launched a thorough search for the arms, in order to spare people harassment. However, the Interior Ministry has urged citizens to hand over their arms to police stations and Army camps. We may arrest anyone who does not hand over his arms. [passage omitted]

Baghdad Signs Cooperation Accord With Russia*JN7909193694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT
9 Sep 94*

[Excerpt] Moscow, 9 Sep (INA)—Iraq and Russia signed a \$10 billion bilateral cooperation agreement at the conclusion of the meetings of the Joint Iraqi-Russian Committee for Trade Exchanges and Economic and Technical Cooperation in Moscow today.

The agreement was signed at the Russian Foreign Economic Relations Ministry by Iraqi Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih and Russian Foreign Economic Relations Minister Oleg Davydov. It provides for implementing many industrial and oil projects and exchanging material and commodity supplies.

Addressing the signing ceremony, Davydov voiced his country's readiness to begin its economic relations with Iraq as of now. He said nothing can prevent bilateral trade exchanges, especially since Russia exports some equipment to Iraq, including harvesters.

Davydov said Iraq has fulfilled all its commitments in accordance with the Security Council resolutions, which requires lifting the embargo and easing the economic blockade that has inflicted heavy damage on civilians, to the extent that surgery is carried out without anesthesia. The embargo has claimed the lives of approximately one million Iraqis, despite the fact that Iraq has the world's second largest oil reserves, he added.

Davydov also stressed Russia's readiness to begin implementing many industrial and oil projects and to reconstruct other projects. He lauded Iraq's commitment and readiness to fulfill its financial obligations despite its current difficult circumstances.

Addressing the same ceremony, Iraqi Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih voiced satisfaction with the positive results of the joint committee meetings. He said the signing of the bilateral cooperation agreement emphasizes the deep historic relationship between the two friendly countries and peoples, and also reflects a genuine desire to expand various scopes of bilateral cooperation.

Salih expressed the conviction that what the joint committee did during its meetings, as well as the efforts of the Iraqi and Russian sides, represent the first step on the path of expanding Russian-Iraqi relations. He expressed the hope that bilateral trade and economic relations will return to normal in the service of both countries' interests.

The Iraqi and Russian sides agreed to hold the next round of meetings for the joint committee in Baghdad next year. Davydov accepted an invitation from Dr. Salih to visit Iraq. The date of the visit will be set later. [passage omitted]

Pakistani 'Source': Baghdad Ready To Recognize Kuwait*JN0909184294 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 1 Sep 94 p 2*

[From the "Foreign Agencies" column]

[Text] Kuwait—In statements published in Kuwaiti newspapers on Wednesday [31 August], head of the Municipal Council [National Assembly Speaker] Ahmad al-Sa'dun rejected any initiatives on future relations with Iraq outside the Security Council framework.

The Council of Ministers of al-Sabah last Monday called for the continuation of international sanctions imposed on Iraq.

Al-Sa'dun said Kuwait cannot accept any statement by an Iraqi official on its commitment to the border demarcation.

A source close to the Pakistani Foreign Ministry in Islamabad said more than one week ago that Iraq is prepared to recognize Kuwait and respect borders.

Fourth Explosion of Year in Baghdad Reported*JN1109152194 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 8 Sep 94 p 1*

[Report: "To Whom It May Concern"]

[Text] Days after the explosion of the booby-trapped car near al-Jamahir Press and Publication House [AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper], another explosion occurred yesterday behind the Industrial Cultural Center near the Army Canal.

It is worth noting that this explosion was the fourth this year.

Rival Kurdish Groups Move 'To Restore Peace'*NC1109181294 Paris AFP in English 1627 GMT
11 Sep 94*

[Text] Banjwin, Iraq, Sept 11 (AFP)—Rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq have taken steps to restore peace after scores of people died in bitter fighting last month, Kurdish officials said here Sunday [11 September].

Civilians who had fled the battle zone had started returning home and fighters from the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and pro-Iranian Kurdistan Islamic League (KIL) had withdrawn from all towns, the officials said.

The latest round of fighting erupted a day after a joint appeal for a ceasefire on August 25 by PUK leader Jalal Talabani and his KDP rival Mas'ud Barzani. Some 350 people were killed in clashes earlier in August.

"More than 600 civilians have returned to al-Sulaymaniyah," said KDP spokesman Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman Sunday.

Meanwhile Halo Rahoud, the PUK official responsible for the Banjwin area east of al-Sulaymaniyah, said armed KDP fighters were returning to the area, near the Iranian border.

"The KDP and PUK will have a set number of armed militia in Banjwin and outside it," Rahoud said.

PUK fighters had already returned to their headquarters in Dahuk, which had been controlled by the KDP since May, Rahoud said. But he did not explain why the PUK had not handed back the KDP's headquarters in al-Sulaymaniyah.

Al-Sulaymaniyah governor and PUK official Salar 'Aziz told AFP the headquarters in the city "belongs to the state," and therefore the KDP had "no right to use it."

Nasriyah Qadir Muhammad, a teacher from al-Sulaymaniyah, said she was returning to the city "because for the first time both parties are taking the peace process seriously." She had been living in Irbil since the clashes erupted.

The rival factions had been fighting for control of Iraqi Kurdistan, which has been under United Nations protection and virtually cut off from the rest of Iraq since a Kurdish uprising against President Saddam Husayn after the 1991 Gulf war.

Al-Asad Said Preparing Public for 'Concessions'

JN1209152594 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic
0710 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brother listeners: [Syrian President Hafiz] al-Asad has inaugurated the sixth term of the People's Assembly. In his inaugural speech, he said his regime regards peace as a strategic option. He said that despite the difficulties and the lack of progress in the negotiations, there is some hope that peace will be achieved. He characterized the efforts of the U.S. Administration as active efforts to reach an agreement between his regime and the Zionist entity. At the same time, he criticized the Arab parties that preceded him in signing separate agreements. Al-Asad said he would meet the objective requirements of peace that are agreed upon.

Apparently, al-Asad is preparing the Syrian public for great concessions that he will offer to the Zionist side. These concessions are no less huge or important than the concessions made by his predecessors who took the same ill-omened road.

Al-Asad's speech coincides with a debate in the Zionist entity about Rabin's offer for a phased withdrawal from the Golan in return for peace with Syria. The spokesman for the Zionist prime minister corrected published reports about the withdrawal. He said, verbatim: No single Israeli soldier shall be withdrawn from the Golan

before three years have elapsed to ascertain the intentions of al-Asad's regime toward the peace process. This means there will be no comprehensive and full withdrawal, as the al-Asad regime claims. Zionist forces and settlements shall stay. What withdrawal, then, are Rabin and al-Asad talking about?

We draw attention here to al-Asad's use of the term strategic to describe the settlement march. He claims that peace, as he calls it, is a strategic option for him. The president of the regime and his trumpets are never bored with repeating this term. Everything he has is strategic: Peace is a strategic option; building up his military capability is meant to achieve strategic parity; and everything else, no matter how big or small, is, for al-Asad and his media, strategic.

Al-Asad did not forget in his speech to refer to U.S. efforts, which he greatly commended. His words in the past were full of denunciation of the U.S. Administration and U.S. imperialism. Al-Asad, however, has skillfully abandoned the Russian ship and got on the U.S. bandwagon. Thus, he has managed to escape, at the last moment, the fate of Ceausescu and other tyrants.

Whatever al-Asad's efforts to explain to the Syrian public the advantages of his forthcoming peace, our people have certainly lost confidence in all al-Asad's utterances and pronouncements. Our people no longer give any attention to these miserable rallies because they are too busy eking out a living, having reached the nadir of misery thanks to this corrupt regime.

Today, this regime is giving the Syrian people false hope of peace, through which al-Asad and his regime will only reap frustration and loss. Al-Asad's harvest will not be better than that of his predecessors.

We should also remember that al-Asad's speech was delivered at the first session of the so-called People's Assembly, an assembly which should make crucial decisions like those of peace, war, negotiations, and others. This assembly has not begun its activity yet. So how can we explain al-Asad's behavior by dictating to the assembly what he wants, and not what the assembly wants. Is this not a clear, obvious recognition that this assembly is not part of the decisionmaking process, but only a formal assembly and institution to peddle the schemes of al-Asad and his masters?

The ruler of Syria does not care about scandal, because he is completely immersed in it, and because there is a new helpful U.S.- Zionist world order. So let him do whatever he wants. But for how long? Lies have short wings, but realities endure. Tomorrow is not far off for those impatiently awaiting it.

Government Decides To Send Policemen to Haiti

TA1109112594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Israel will send policemen to Haiti. In consultations held this morning by the prime minister, the police minister, and the police commissioner it was decided to comply with the U.S. request to send a police force to Haiti, which will join the international supervisory force that will operate there after the invasion. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that it was decided to send some 30 officers and policemen, both in service and retired. The force will be headed by retired Commissioner Gabi Amir, who was the Prison Service commissioner and the deputy police commissioner. He will fly to the United States this week to coordinate the departure of the force.

Ministers Comment on Role

TA1109201294 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen video report]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said today that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's speech yesterday was positive and constituted a declaration of peace. Peres nevertheless added that there was no indication of an impending meeting between himself and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Rosen] Was today's decision to send Israeli policemen to Haiti reached without any reservations?

[Peres] Yes. These policemen will serve as monitors [last word in English] who will observe developments. Seeing as the United States has acceded to so many of our requests, we are obliged to agree when Washington is on the asking side for a change. To all intents and purposes, the job of the Israelis, if they are actually sent there, will be similar to that of the U.S. troops in the Sinai Peninsula.

[Rosen] Police Minister Shahal stressed today that the Israeli contingent will not participate in any operational activity:

[Shahal] Israeli policemen will be able to maintain public order from the supervisory aspect. They will be able to safeguard civil rights, as they will be arriving during the second stage and not as part of the military forces invading Haiti, if and when such an invasion takes place.

[Justice Minister David Liba'i] If the United States asks an ally like Israel to help it restore democracy to a nearby country, then we should adopt a positive attitude in principle, on condition that we receive information regarding exactly what this entails. We cannot only expect the United States to help us and remain sensitive to our problems. We, too, are sensitive to the issue of

democracy around the world, as well as to the needs of a friendly country like the United States. [end recording]

Jerusalem Reacts to Speech by Syria's al-Asad

TA1009184494 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen studio report—live]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem says this evening that there is not much new in the remarks Syrian President al-Asad made this evening, except for the interesting nuance in which al-Asad said that there is a need to make important decisions and that the past should not affect future decisions. New or not, Jerusalem views the speech as important for three main reasons: One, the place it was made—the Syrian People's Assembly, the parliament. It is the first time that al-Asad has spoken before the parliament of a strategic decision for peace. Second, al-Asad demands to be paid the full price, but is also willing to pay the full price—that is giving full peace. Third, al-Asad speaks about his wish to make quick progress, perhaps as soon as this year.

Here are several reactions we received over the past hour. The prime minister's bureau says: President al-Asad's remarks are very positive. Incidentally, this was not the prime minister's bureau reaction after al-Asad made very similar remarks in the past, in Geneva for example, but times have apparently changed. Senior elements told us this is an important speech that attests to al-Asad's desire to make progress.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that the speech constitutes a positive response to the Israeli demand for public diplomacy. Dr. Yosi Olmert, an orientalist, also said this is an appeasing speech and, from al-Asad's point of view, it definitely corresponds with the Israeli and U.S. demand that Syria make its diplomacy more public. [passage omitted]

Peres Comments on al-Asad Speech, Golan Protests

TA1109074794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Me'ir Einstein; place not given—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning. Foreign Minister Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Einstein] What is so positive about the speech delivered last night by the Syrian president?

[Peres] The general tone and his unequivocal address to parliament in which he announced that his strategy is one of peace, as well as his hints—or more than hints, seeing that he spoke about a normalization in relations—that he understands that peace really means peace. His

public stand and his attitude toward the other side constitute an achievement in this respect.

[Einstein] On the other hand, however, he said—and I am quoting from a translation of his speech: I told President Clinton that we want peace with Israel, but are not prepared to relinquish a part of our homeland's soil.

[Peres] It does not surprise me that there is still a big gap in the opening positions of both sides, and at the moment we are in an opening position seeing that full and detailed negotiations have not yet begun. One must bear in mind that negotiations do not culminate when one side accepts the position of the other, but when two sides find a third way that meets the needs and positions of each of the sides.

[Einstein] The French news agency quotes an unnamed senior Israeli Foreign Ministry official as saying that Israel and Syria have already agreed on everything and that the only outstanding issue is the timetable.

[Peres] This time around the French are more optimistic than we are and they seem to know something we do not know. I believe such assertions are unfounded.

[Einstein] Meanwhile, there have been numerous rumors and reports about an impending meeting between yourself and your Syrian counterpart at the end of this month.

[Peres] No such meeting has been set. Moreover, we have not reached any agreement about meetings on the political level. Therefore, such a report is premature.

[Einstein] Is somebody trying to mediate or arrange such a meeting?

[Peres] I think the United States is trying to arrange meetings on various levels, including the highest levels and the political levels. This is not the first time they have tried, but there is as yet no Syrian willingness to make such a move.

[Einstein] Do you think that a breakthrough and progress will only be attained in a high-level meeting, such as one between yourself and Faruq al-Shar?

[Peres] I would not make such an assertion, but I will say that such meetings help overcome difficulties. A great deal of thought and consideration must be invested to find a common denominator and a golden mean. After all, if both sides continue to repeat what they have said to date nothing will change, and what we want is to create a new situation. We have also learned the best way to reach an understanding through our negotiations with the Egyptians, Palestinians, and Jordanians. Our conclusion is that in order to overcome differences negotiations must be conducted on two levels: a quite public political level and a secret level.

[Einstein] We hear that several Golan settlers began a hunger strike this morning. Do you have something to say to allay the fears of the Golan settlers?

[Peres] First of all, I think all of us respect what they have done and the mission they fulfill. I have said in the past and I reiterate today that the Golan settlers had not one, but two missions: a security mission and a peace mission. After all, peace is also a component of security. I greatly appreciate my colleague Avigdor Qahalani and his opinions, but security can not just be attained through security. On the contrary, perhaps security cannot be attained only through security.

[Einstein] Is this mission you are talking about over?

[Peres] The first mission is gradually making way for the second one, the mission of peace. Had it not been for the work done by our friends in the Golan we may have very well not arrived at a state of peace. However, we have not yet come to the point where decisions are called for. Such protests are definitely premature and I am sorry about them. With all due respect, nations do not act according to hunger strikes but according to the decision of the majority, and it clearly seems to me that the majority of the people are determined to attain full peace in the Middle East, including with Syria. Without an agreement with Syria peace would be flawed, defective, and lame. Therefore, with all due respect to their opinions and pain, they must accept the decision of the people. A state is not just territory but a form of government in which the majority rules and the minority must comply with its decision, its pain notwithstanding.

[Einstein] Mr. Peres, I would like to end this talk with another issue. On Tuesday you are scheduled to meet in Oslo with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. What is on the agenda of your meeting?

[Peres] Truthfully, such a meeting was not on the agenda when the visit was set. The prime minister and myself were invited to Oslo, and we agreed that I would go. The reason for this trip is to express our appreciation to the Norwegian people for their immense contribution to the peace process. Incidentally, this contribution is not yet over. In the meantime, however, a serious crisis occurred in Paris which greatly complicated the situation on many issues. We will have to tackle these issues and solve the crisis.

[Einstein] Foreign Minister Peres, thank you very much.

[Peres] You are welcome. All the best.

Savir on Peace Talks, Cabinet Meeting, Haiti

TA1109120594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[Excerpts] The United States is working to advance the Syrian-Israel track and, according to estimates in Washington, the attainment of an agreed-upon document, perhaps a declaration of principles, is possible within a few months. The document will allow the opening of direct negotiations between Damascus and Jerusalem.

Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, who has recently visited Washington, spoke about the goals the U.S. Administration set for itself:

[Begin Savir recording] Negotiations on a higher level, more creative negotiations and, in any event, bilateral negotiations without the American mediator. I believe that the United States is now looking at a significant segment, perhaps the last segment of this type of diplomacy—mediation diplomacy—which will eventually end with a certain agreement that will allow the holding of real negotiations, which will be complex and very difficult, which will prepare a package for the shape of peace, security, and withdrawal between us and Syria. [end recording]

The Americans decided to draw the line in December, wishing to end their mediation role by then. According to estimates in Washington, the chances for this are good, but Savir stressed that there is no certainty that this concentrated U.S. effort will yield results. This depends more on the decisions that will be made over in the next few months in Jerusalem and Damascus. The United States is moving to a more active stage in the negotiations, this emerged from the Foreign Ministry's director general's remarks.

Speaking on the Palestinian issue, Savir said that, according to discussions and analyses held at the Foreign Ministry on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Oslo agreement, the agreement has succeeded above and beyond expectations, despite the fact that there are still problems. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is leaving for Oslo on Tuesday to attend a festive occasion to mark the anniversary of the Oslo agreement. This time again, as on previous occasions, this festive occasion will turn into a working session aimed at solving the crisis at the donor conference.

From the Foreign Ministry we go to the Prime Minister's Office where the cabinet session ended a short while ago. One of the issues on today's agenda was the detention of right-wing activists and Army officer Oren Edri. Minister Yosi Sarid denied the reports that the Shin Bet has tortured suspects. [passage omitted]

Another issue raised in the cabinet today was sending policemen to Haiti as part of the international observers' force. The cabinet decided to examine the issue in a positive light, and look into the professional aspects of it.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin did not comment on Syrian President al-Asad's speech last night because, he said, he has not yet read the text of the speech, which his office staffers taped for him.

Rabin Supports Nuclear-Free Region, Bilateral Controls

NC1009084394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0805 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that Israel supports a nuclear-free Middle East. "But we are not for international supervision and do not believe in it," he added.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM published today, Rabin said: What we are hoping for and focusing on today is the achievement of peace. After that, we will call on all states of the region to sign bilateral agreements with Israel stipulating that the Middle East be free of nuclear weapons on the basis of bilateral control systems and mutual supervision between each pair of countries.

Asked about reports that Israel is planning to destroy the Iranian nuclear reactor, Rabin said: "We are not planning for such an action." According to my information, Rabin added, Iran still has no nuclear reactor, but Russia and China are building two nuclear power plants for it.

Arab MK on Visit to Iraq, Cable to Saddam

JN0409195694 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 5 Sep 94 p 7

[Text] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, Israeli Knesset member [MK] and secretary of the Arab Democratic Party, has denied that his imminent visit to Iraq is aimed at discussing the issue of resettling Palestinian refugees there. He added that the aim of the visit is to discuss the lifting of the sanctions clamped on this Arab country, and involving it in the regional peace process.

In a telephone conversation with AL-MUHARRIR, Darawshah, who is currently on a visit to the United States, went on to say that he raised this issue in the talks he had held with U.S. officials at the U.S. State Department. But his initiative in this regard, he noted, was met with reservations. He said that he is unaware whether or not Iraq intends to resettle Palestinian refugees on Iraqi territory. "Nonetheless, I do know that Iraq has provided the Palestinians with shelter, aid, and immense support," he said.

Darawshah stated that he has not met with any Iraqi official in Washington. However, he submitted a request for a meeting with the Iraqi representative to the United Nations, and has not thus far received a response to this request. He said that this is the first time he has asked for a visit to Iraq. If his request is approved, he will head a 20-member delegation, half of which will be Arabs, while the other half will comprise "pro-peace" Oriental Jews representing intellectuals, politicians, and political parties.

In his conversation with AL-MUHARRIR, Darawshah denied that his request for a visit to Iraq came as a result of coordination with the Israeli Government. He asserted that he has not consulted with any Israeli Government agency in this regard, and has not sought official approval of such a visit. "Nonetheless, I have held some consultations with several Arab and Jewish figures who could be members of the delegation that might visit Iraq. They commended the idea of the visit," he said.

With regard to his visit to the United States, he deemed it a private one. He emphasized that he is not representing any official Israeli body other than the Arab

Democratic Party. He provided AL-MUHARRIR with the transcript of a cable he had sent to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, requesting a visit to Baghdad. The following is the text of this cable:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Your Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, may God protect you.

Baghdad,

Warm Arab greetings,

Proceeding from a pan-Arab perspective; out of a desire to promote the cause of our heroic Iraqi Arab people and our Arab nation in which we take pride as Arabs and as an indivisible part of the Palestinian people; because we seek to contribute toward the achievement of just and comprehensive peace in the region; driven by a desire on our part to contribute toward the lifting of the sanctions on Iraq and toward the involvement of Iraq in the Middle East peace process; and out of a desire to foster our noble pan-Arab values, I kindly request that Your Excellency approve a visit to Baghdad by a joint Arab-Jewish delegation representing pro-peace forces in Israel so that it may hold talks with you and senior Iraqi officials. From there, the delegation will urge the world public and the United Nations to revoke the sanctions clamped on Iraq and involve it in the peace process.

I propose that the delegation comprise 10 prominent Palestinian figures who are Israeli citizens, as well as 10

Oriental Jews, mostly of Iraqi origin, who are known for their support for the peace process and are willing to make sacrifices to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region.

This delegation will be a popular rather than an official one. We would not be representing the Israeli Government. We would be representing the Arab-Jewish pro-peace forces, which are opposed to the anti-Iraq aggression, and which support an end to the sanctions imposed on the fraternal Iraqi people.

We trust that your endorsement of the delegation's visit to Iraq will immensely promote our just cause and the cause of peace. This will hopefully serve Iraq, the entire region, and the world at large.

We strongly hope that you will endorse this visit so that our delegation may leave for Baghdad shortly in order to achieve the noble objectives we seek to accomplish through this visit.

May God grant you success. May He protect you as a valuable asset for the valiant Iraqi people and the Arab nation.

Please accept our warm greetings and wishes of success.

Drafted on 28 August 1994

Please accept our best regards.

[Signed] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, leader of the Arab Democratic Party and Knesset member

King Husayn Returns From Visit to Europe

JN1209152794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Excerpt] With God's care and grace, His Majesty King Husayn today returned home following an official working visit to Germany and France and a private visit to the United Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Saudi Charge d'Affaires Expected 'Within Week'

JN1109093994 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 10-11 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by 'Umar Kallab]

[Text] Saudi Arabia has upgraded the level of diplomatic representation in Jordan and made several changes within the Saudi Embassy staff in Amman. This has been confirmed by embassy sources to AKHIR KHABAR. The number of diplomats in both countries has been increased from four to six. The Saudi Foreign Ministry also changed the deputy charge d'affaires, the head of the consulate section, and the head of the financial section in Amman. The sources say that the new appointees are open-minded and enlightened young men who seek to create a new climate for Saudi relations with neighboring countries, even with Iraq.

The sources told AKHIR KHABAR that Saudi Arabia intends to gradually revive relations with Jordan. They said that representation will be upgraded soon, noting that a charge d'affaires will be in Jordan within a week at most.

King Husayn on Peace Accord With Israel

BR0809140194 Brussels KNACK in Dutch 7 Sep 94 p 104-106

[Interview with King Husayn by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "It Is Better To Be Good Neighbors"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [KNACK] You have now been king of Jordan for 42 years. On 25 July you signed the Washington Declaration bringing to an end a 46-year war. Is that the high point of your career?

[Husayn] The Declaration does not bring an end to the suffering in the region. It is only a high point to the extent that Jordan and Israel have finally decided to make peace. Everybody has now realized that there is no alternative to peace.

[KNACK] Except Syria and the Lebanon which depends on Syria.

[Husayn] All leaders want peace. A major peace accord between Israel and all its Arab neighbors is the only solution. Every step in this direction, such as the Jordanian-Israeli accord, is a contribution to peace.

[KNACK] Yet nobody expected to see talks between Jordan and Israel to come so quickly.

[Husayn] No Arab country has done and suffered so much for the Palestinians as Jordan. Now that the PLO has itself concluded an agreement with Israel, we found it necessary to defend our own interests.

[KNACK] What can we expect from these talks?

[Husayn] The atmosphere is not bad, but the negotiations will nevertheless take a long time. There are clear reasons for this: We not only want an agreement on the correct border in the Jordan valley, but also want to discuss how the valley can become a genuine area of peace by pursuing joint projects to secure its future. In addition, we want to know how much water we are going to get and how we can make better use of existing supplies, how we can tap new sources.

These negotiations may be lengthy, but we will keep talking until we reach agreement. Then the Jordanian people must say whether they agree to it. The opposition must also give its approval, because any peace imposed from above cannot be a real peace.

[KNACK] The Washington accord has given the PLO leaders rather a fright. Yasir 'Arafat is furious about the role given to Jordan in the negotiations on the future status of Jerusalem.

[Husayn] But all that happened in Washington was the confirmation of a simple fact: That Jordan and the Hashemite sovereigns have a special relationship with Jerusalem and the holy places in the city. This relationship dates back to the time when the Kingdom of Jordan was founded, before the existence of Israel. In 1948, the Jordanian Army fought for Jerusalem and saved the city.

The catastrophe occurred when Israel overran Jerusalem in the Six-Day War in 1967. But that did not change our responsibility with regard to the holy places. This was clearly stated at the 1974 Arab summit in Rabat.

[KNACK] But Israel had promised to discuss Jerusalem's status with the PLO alone. PLO leader 'Arafat may therefore feel betrayed?

[Husayn] The attempt to settle responsibility for the holy places for Muslims, Christians, and Jews outside the political accords is something new. If this succeeds, Jerusalem will be a peaceful city. That has nothing to do with the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the city's future.

[KNACK] Unless it is perhaps better for Israel if Jordan and the PLO stand opposed to one another.

[Husayn] Jordan took the initiative. We simply want to settle a few matters until final agreement is reached. The religious problems have nothing to do with the national rights of the Palestinians, which we have always fought for.

[KNACK] Faysal al-Husayni, PLO expert for Jerusalem, said that inflating the Jerusalem issue is the best way to derail the peace process.

[Husayn] There is no reason to set people against each other. I hope that nobody will cover up their own failures by inflating the Jerusalem issue. At any rate, we have nothing to gain from tension with the Palestinians.

[KNACK] Did you suddenly take the initiative because you were frightened that Israel and the PLO would reach an agreement at Jordan's expense?

[Husayn] The Palestinians did indeed surprise us. At the 1991 peace conference in Madrid, we were both pulling the same way.

We have since continued to support them. But we nevertheless reserve the right to defend our national interests, do we not? We have always tried to reach joint agreements, but that has never succeeded. That is why we have now taken the initiative ourselves.

[KNACK] The rumored Arab unity was always a myth.

[Husayn] Nothing much came of it in any event.

[KNACK] What are you aiming for: A Palestinian state? A Palestinian-Jordanian federation?

[Husayn] It is much too soon to say anything definitive about the relationship between Jordan and the future Palestinian areas. To begin with, the Palestinians must obtain their democratic freedoms. Only then can they freely decide. And we will respect that decision.

[KNACK] What about the Palestinians who live in Jordan?

[Husayn] Everybody retains their status until we can finally decide whether the Palestinians in Jordan are going to stay or not. But that is for the future.

That is the job of a commission to be set up by Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinians themselves. But the refugees are certainly entitled to return to their country.

[KNACK] For more than 20 years there has in fact been peace on the banks of the Jordan. In all these years you have had secret talks with many Israeli politicians. What about?

[Husayn] I have often spoken about peace. For many years, there was no result until we saw that a peace agreement is not the precursor to peace talks, but their conclusion.

[KNACK] Peace is not possible without Syria. What is President Hafiz al-Asad going to do now? Will he negotiate or remain isolated?

[Husayn] Asad wants peace. I hope there is some movement and that Syria and the Lebanon are also included in the total peace process. I have regular contacts with President Asad and I have told him that Jordan is now going to play its own card.

[KNACK] Will we ever see a common market between Israel and its Arab neighbors?

[Husayn] There are so many possibilities to improve the life of all the people in this area. Such a common market would bring more stability, safety, and prosperity. And it would be a good example for all other crisis regions in the world.

[KNACK] Will the Arab countries accept Israel's economic dominance?

[Husayn] There is no reason whatsoever why Jordan should be afraid of the future or of Israeli dominance. Our country is developed, our people are well-educated. The time of the economic boycott of Israel is over. But negotiations are needed in this area, as Israel also boycotts Arab products.

[KNACK] In the Gulf War you chose the side of Iraq. That isolated you. Does Iraq still have a role to play? And should it be involved in the peace process?

[Husayn] I can only speak on my own behalf. But I hope that Iraq, an important country in this region, can live again, and that we see an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people. Iraq is a very important factor for peace in the Middle East.

[KNACK] You are the longest serving head of state in the region. Do you dare predict when Israel will be able to genuinely live in peace with its neighbors?

[Husayn] Both parties have accepted that there is no alternative to the present peace process. But it is difficult to forecast how long it will take before it is all put into practice. Everything depends on how quickly the various countries transform their hope and goodwill into deeds.

[KNACK] Egyptian President al-Sadat concluded a peace agreement with Israel 17 years ago. Would it not have been better for all the Arab countries to make peace rather than to have lived in conflict for all these years?

[Husayn] The tragedy for the region was that so many chances were missed, that the leaders repeatedly put their own interests before the general interest. Both sides, in Israel and in the Arab world, fostered their illusions. That is now over.

Al-Majali: Amman 'Keen' on Improving Arab Ties

JN1109165594 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said Jordan is keen on improving relations with Arab countries, and has made some headway in restoring relations with Gulf Arab states.

He told local journalists that in addition to its ties with Oman, Jordan has restored ties with Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, which responded in a mutually cooperative and fraternal spirit. Dr. al-Majali said Kuwait began to change its attitude, and that its foreign

minister and his under secretary had received a Jordanian Foreign Ministry counselor, who paid a recent visit to the Emirate.

Speaking about Jordanian-Saudi ties, the prime minister said Jordan had expressed its readiness to send a Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and the Saudis have responded favorably. He said that was a good sign from the Saudis, and Jordan hopes that relations would return to normal.

Dr. al-Majali also told journalists that Jordan was committed to its territorial and water rights, and to negotiations on the issues of Jerusalem and refugees.

Prime Minister on Improving Gulf Relations

JN1209081294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Sep 94 pp 1, 7

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Abd al-Salam al-Majali on Sunday urged Arab countries to end their differences so that they can contribute to the shaping of the new regional order that will inevitably engulf the area. If Arab countries fail to reconcile their differences, the new regional order will be imposed on them, Dr. al-Majali told a press conference.

Reiterating Jordan's position that it welcomes any move towards Arab reconciliation, Dr. al-Majali said that there were signs that relations with some Gulf Arab countries were improving.

The prime minister cited the Saudi endorsement of the Jordanian decision to send an ambassador in Riyadh and the warm welcome he said Kuwait awarded a Jordanian Foreign Ministry official last week as indications that relations were improving.

However, Dr. al-Majali said, Gulf officials say the "problem with Jordan is its media" which "they think the government can control."

Dr. al-Majali said articles that appeared in the Jordanian press about some Gulf countries have on many occasions undermined efforts to put ties on the right track.

"Jordan was punished by some Gulf and Western countries" because of its opposition to the war that the allies launched on Iraq after the latter invaded Kuwait in 1990. While relations with all Western countries have returned to their pre-Gulf war levels, he said, the problems are not over with all Gulf states.

Describing relations with Qatar and Oman as excellent, Dr. al-Majali said ties with the United Arab Emirates "are good," adding that UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nahayyan indicated willingness to improve ties with Jordan when they met in Geneva last month though Shaykh Zayid said problems are still to be worked out.

"We are not against the Kuwaiti people; nor are we against Kuwait," Dr. al-Majali told reporters at the Prime Ministry. "We recognise the suffering of the Kuwaitis just as we do that of the Iraqis."

But the prime minister pointed to the limited role Jordan can play on the Arab scene "because our ability to move is limited. Our resources are limited and we engage in politics while we are surrounded by four countries which are stronger than us in terms of manpower and resources."

Responding to a question, Dr. al-Majali said that relations with Syria "are very good" though the two governments have not been in direct contact over the peace process since Syria's cold reception to the signing of the Washington Declaration on July 25.

Dr. al-Majali said the kingdom had coordinated its position with other Arab countries to the peace process since it was launched in Madrid, adding that Jordan believes in "a comprehensive solution" to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But if they choose not to let Jordan in on developments in their tracks, "we understand" their position, Dr. al-Majali said.

Dr. al-Majali expected progress in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, saying the speech Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad delivered in Parliament Saturday "included clear indications that a breakthrough is possible."

Answering a question about bilateral Jordanian-Israeli talks which resume in Israel today, Dr. al-Majali said Israel was procrastinating despite its agreement to demarcate its borders with the kingdom.

He said Israel was also obstructing progress in the water talks by bringing up the issue of the share of the Palestinians in the waters of the Jordan and Yarmouk Rivers which Jordan insists should be distributed in accordance with the conditions that prevailed in 1948.

Difficulty is also expected in talks over occupied Jordanian areas near the Dead Sea where both the kingdom and Israel are mining potash. "The issue here is difficult and Jordan will not settle it (without a price)," the prime minister told reporters.

Dr. al-Majali denied reports that Jordan and Israel were holding secret talks parallel to the negotiations which have moved to the region in July.

Responding to the tension that developed between the Kingdom and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) after the Washington Declaration recognised the religious custodianship of the Hashemites over Holy sites in Jerusalem, Dr. al-Majali said the tension was created by trouble seekers but the issue was cleared between the two sides.

He said it was the PLO that requested a continuation of the Jordanian role in the holy city after the kingdom

severed links with the occupied West Bank in 1989, pointing to what he called the historic role that Hashemites have played in guarding the holy sites since the beginning of the century.

He said had Jordan not secured a reference to those sites in the declaration, they would have fallen under the control of the Israeli ministry of religions.

Addressing the issue of refugees, Dr. al-Majali pointed out that the issue was included in the common agenda signed by the kingdom and Israel on Sept. 14, 1993, adding that talks on 1967 refugees "will begin soon" in the framework of a joint committee that includes the Kingdom, Egypt, the PLO and Israel.

The prime minister said the government would not force normalisation of ties with Israel on the people, saying the abnormal situation that existed between the two countries would end only when its causes were removed.

Peace has to bring economic benefits to the kingdom and signs of that have already started to appear, the prime minister said.

Dr. al-Majali said the government had no information to confirm reports that about \$40 million were embezzled in Royal Jordanian purchase contracts.

"The government cannot act on rumours," he said, adding that it would take action if it gathers sufficient evidence that there were violations of the law in the

company. He said the government had asked the prosecutor general to check the credibility of reports about alleged embezzlement and to take action if he collected sufficient evidence.

The prime minister brushed aside suggestions that his government was heading towards a confrontation with Parliament when it convenes late next month, saying the two authorities cooperate for the benefit of the country. He refuted suggestions that the deputies have indicated that the government should resign when 61 of them sent His Majesty King Husayn a letter in which they severely criticised the government's acts and policies.

He said, however, that the Lower House of Parliament has the right to criticise the government and its policies.

The opposition has the right to differ with the government but law should regulate the way it operates, he said.

Dr. al-Majali also rejected reports that he was angered by the formation of the Royal Commission for Modernisation and Development because it encroached on the authorities of the executive.

He said the royal commission will work as a task force to deal with important issues outside the constraints of the usual government routine work.

Responding to a question on the rudeness and inefficiency with which some civil servants treat the citizens, Dr. al-Majali said the government has taken action to improve the performance of the bureaucracy but reform will come gradually.

He urged citizens to report misconduct by civil servants so that the executive authority will be able to rectify the situation.

Israeli Military Activity in South Reported

NC0909121594 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Israeli warplanes overflowed the western and central sectors of south Lebanon this morning. The planes launched mock raids over Qabrikha and Majdal Silm, dropping thermal balloons. An Israeli gunboat cruised off the coast between al-Naqrurah and Ra's al-'Ayn. Our correspondent reported that the Israeli forces in Tallusah raked Wadi al-Saluqi this morning.

Our correspondent in the south also cites arrivals from the border strip saying that the Israeli forces are building a defensive outpost in Tallat Abu-al-Hayat, which overlooks Rajman, al-Bayyadah, and Tayr Harfa. Our correspondent explained that the Israeli forces built a 2-km road linking (Birkat Rishah) on the Lebanese-Israeli border with that outpost.

Israelis Shell Iqlim al-Tuffah Area

NC1109052094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] The Jabal al-Rafi' in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area came under sporadic artillery barrage from the Israeli occupation positions in al-Zaffatah at 2230 yesterday. Earlier the eastern quarter of the town of Kafr Rumman came under fire from bursts of machine-gun fire from Tallat al-Tuhrah.

Dallul Remarks on Fighting, Deployment in South

JN1109114394 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 3 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Hujul in BeRrut]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with AL-YAWM, Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul said that Israel is

seeking, through its daily attacks, to pressure Lebanon into disarming the resistance and disengaging the Lebanese and Syrian tracks in peace negotiations. He said: We and Syria entered the negotiations together and we will sign or quit together.

The defense minister said the Lebanese Army was prepared for deployment in the occupied border strip once Israel pulled out of it. "We will then be held responsible for any bullet fired in the direction of the borders," he added. He expected more Israeli attacks on his country, but said Lebanon will not yield to pressure.

Dallul said that international and Arab silence over aggression against Lebanon could be the result of U.S. pressures aimed at forcing Lebanon to submit to Israeli demands.

Three Injured in Clash in Palestinian Camp

NC1109061794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Three people were injured in a clash in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp yesterday afternoon between the two Palestinian families of Abu-al-Kull and Abu-Madaris. The cause of the clash is not known. The two families used machine guns and hand grenades in the clash.

[(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 0445 GMT on 11 September reports: "A clash occurred in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp yesterday evening between Fatah gunmen, leaving three members injured."]

Public Security Deports 317 Egyptians

NC1209093894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The public security branch in Tripoli deported 317 Egyptian nationals to Egypt at 0800 today. The Egyptians had entered Lebanon illegally.

Al-Asad Addresses People's Assembly

JN1009180494 Damascus Syrian Arab Television
Network in Arabic 1448 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Address by President Hafiz al-Asad at the opening session of the sixth legislative term of the Syrian People's Assembly in Damascus on 10 September—live]

[Text] Mr. Speaker of the People's Assembly; brother and sister members of the assembly; gentlemen:

To mark the inauguration of the sixth legislative term of the People's Assembly, it gives me pleasure to extend to you my sincere congratulations on the victory you have achieved in the general elections. The elections were conducted in a genuinely fair and free atmosphere and were marked by responsibility and awareness. Thus, you have won the honor of representing the people in the People's Assembly.

When I attach my congratulations to the honor of representing the people, this is because the trust placed by the people in you is precious and expresses the bond between the voters and their representatives. You are now the representatives of the people in its various sectors, and you are asked to safeguard its principles.

You have won the confidence of the people through a fair competition between you and other fellow citizens who sought to represent the people and serve this country. The confidence that is won through a fair competition must be bolstered and embodied in action so that dedicated efforts continue and confidence increases.

What calls for optimism that the role of women in our life and community will continue to grow is the constant increase in the number of women who win membership in the People's Assembly. In this legislative term, 24 women won. Take also the number of women who ran for elections and the number of women who went to the polls to exercise their right to election. These figures give evidence of the maturity of women and the maturity of society and also of the solidity of democracy in Syria.

On this precious occasion, which we all cherish, I would also like to express my thanks and appreciation to the former People's Assembly for its efforts in discharging the duties assigned to it by the Constitution and the law.

During the fifth legislative term, the assembly ratified a significant number of bills that go along with progress and development, achieve more balance between the tracks of development, and enhance the participation of citizens in economic, social, and intellectual activities. The assembly passed laws that encourage investment and protect the environment and man. I mention, for example, Law No. 10 on Investment, the Forestry Law, the Drugs Law, the Money Transactions Law, the Tax Law, and other important laws.

The assembly's activity in the former legislative term was based on democratic rules and norms, which have

been bolstered over the past years. Thus, there were serious and rich discussions; dialogue was objective and satisfactory. The people got to know more about the discussions of the assembly members through the various media. This resulted in contact and communication between our constitutional institutions and the masses of our people. The assembly thus bolstered what is safeguarded by the Constitution, which guarantees the citizen's freedom and dignity and guarantees for the representatives of the peoples an immunity that is only answerable to the law.

Brothers and sisters: You know that the freedom of the homeland guarantees the freedom of the citizen and that the efficacy of the elected assemblies stems from the ability of its members to express the interests and aspirations of the masses in total freedom. Thus, the state institutions will become active institutions that understand and utilize change to drive society toward a stage of comprehensive and balanced change.

The confidence you have won dictates that you must pay attention to the citizens' general needs and aspirations in cooperation with the Executive Branch. As long as man's needs are legitimate and basic, we must find the possible and available ways and means to meet these legitimate needs.

Brothers and sisters: It is known that man's needs grow with the advancement of life and increase with the increase of hopes. To meet these aspirations and needs, resources are required and man's resources grow and develop in response to the challenges facing him.

Our resources in the country are numerous. Some are potential, while others are actual. You must look into the reasons for inaction, strengthen what is positive, and note what is negative, so that what is inactive can become productive, and so that the wheels of progress can move in the direction of what is now inactive to turn it into an active and influential factor to reach the nation's objectives. Nothing is more important or durable than man's will to bring change in order to achieve these goals.

Thus, one of the basic tasks awaiting you—in addition to legislation and supervision—is to continue to search for the possible means to meet the needs of the masses and help the Executive Branch to approve these alternative and means, so that work between the Legislative and Executive branches can be integrated, and so that criticism and supervision can be constructive and go hand in hand to help achieve the comprehensive development, with its economic, social, administrative, and intellectual elements.

Brothers: Your assembly convenes in its sixth legislative term to entrench our people's aspirations to establish the genuine popular democracy, which has been pursued by the country since the inception of the Corrective Movement in 1970. The convening of the first term of the People's Assembly marked the start of this integrated

march, which establishes, with every term, traditions and norms of democratic action. It will remain an edifice, on which the future generations can build their democratic action.

The democratic atmosphere in which these elections was held, the great enthusiasm to stand for elections, the voters' awareness and understanding of their responsibility, the freedom exercised in electing the candidates, and the honest conduct provided a bright proof of our people's ability to contribute to the great actions that concern their life and future.

Our people in Syria are genuine. They give love and sacrifice to those who interact with their causes in a correct and precise way. They have demonstrated their originality, loyalty, and love on several occasions. In the battles of liberation, they set examples of sacrifice and giving. These battles gave convoys of martyrs, the convoys of glory and pride, the convoys of light and brightness. Their symbols set the model for us and their souls are a beacon guiding us. In the battle for the self-construction, our people offered efforts, mixed with sweat, to bring good to the homeland. The homeland grew with its citizens' love of goodness, became lofty with their glory, and its position grew with their sacrifices. The slogans that are connected to love for the homeland were complemented by action after these slogans were established in the hearts and minds.

The masses of the people also gave manifestations of their national unity and social cohesion. These manifestations reflected their originality in interacting with the events seen by the homeland and the nation.

This unity and that interaction were clear in both the good and bad times, through which the homeland turns into one big, cohesive family drinking from genuine symbols of civilization in the heritage of our nation, and through its historic actions, it adds great achievement. Through their sincere national expression, the masses' actions go far beyond the dimensions of time and place to settle deep into one's conscience. The Arab nation possesses great potential. He who does not realize the depth and contents of this potential is greatly mistaken. The nation has showed some of this potential on several occasions. The nation is still storing huge potential in its cultural heritage. Throughout history, our people in Syria have proved that their sacrifices increase by the increase of challenges, where talents are sharpened, and people compete to offer sacrifices.

The masses of our people have social values that can rise to the level of the symbols of civilization. These values are inspired by the past and seek to achieve future expectations. The most important thing in these values is that they have become a social and collective behavior at the same time. It is a behavior that stems from the common feeling of all members of the society and from

the common sense of responsibility toward public problems. This has reinforced the values of sacrifice, martyrdom, and faithfulness. Thus, loyalty to the homeland has become very precious. [applause; female assembly member recites poetry]

Brothers, our people have made achievements thanks to the strong will of the Syrian citizens. They have also made these achievements by taking their positions in institutions, organizations, parties, and trade unions that can take up their various social, economic, political, and ideological activities. Thus, our experiment in the country in political and economic pluralism and in popular democracy has become a pioneering experiment we recall proudly. It has been our approach and method of action since the dawn of the Corrective Movement. This approach is based on the fact that the course of development of every society is eventually determined by this society's special characteristics in harmony with its state of affairs, resources, and circumstances. The sound approach gives clear visibility to what we have now and what we should have in the future, and it distinguishes between natural change and forced change and between genuineness and imitation. The state of change does not begin from nothingness. Neither does it grow from seeds that grew and developed outside their political, social, and economic environment. It is a renewing and developing process whose elements are in the past and look to the future. Development proceeds based on a relationship that renews continuously with the renewal of needs and the development of the society.

Our people's march was one of struggle that is reinforced in accordance with a developmental course, each of its stages constitutes a level that is higher than the previous one. At a time when the issue of the relationship between the new and the old during the first stage of the revolution's lifetime was important to clarify its identity, emphasis at later stages was focused on the importance of harmony between ideology and the real social state of affairs. The outcome of interaction between ideology and the real state of affairs develops ideology itself on the one hand, and gives further explanation of the real state of affairs on the other. Through the programmatic relationship between ideology and the real state of affairs, Syria created a kind of movement that has enabled it to understand and absorb the Arab and international facts and circumstances. This approach has secured safety and tranquility for all the people's classes, entrenched values, and reinforced achievements. The approach that involves sacrifices without being affected by marginal developments sharpens enthusiasm, strengthens resolutions, and develops capabilities. However, dealing with marginal developments and similar problems wastes efforts and exhausts energies.

Brothers and sisters. The laws of nature and life indicate that each action imparts force that becomes permanent and renewable if the basis and substance of this action is known. This force creates shocks and repercussions. The greater the action, the wider the repercussions and the

deeper the achievements. If you monitor our people's march in the various stages, you will find that our people's actions and achievements are great and towering, based on unlimited resources and on a background extending to the roots of the nation. Thanks to these resources, our experiment overcame the obstacles, contained the contradictions, digested the genuine, and rejected the false from its ranks. The Corrective Movement came to rectify the course and restore the revolution to its essence. [applause]

The masses and the party basis transcended the phase of dichotomy between thought and the real circumstances. The priorities were revised and the principles were tied to the movement of life. Thus, the course became clear, the pillars became strong, the achievements grew, and national unity was strengthened. We exerted efforts and covered a great distance in building a modern state based on the rule of law and equal opportunities and the preservation of rights for all the people, a state that derives its character from the nation's heritage and plans its future in light of the present and the circumstances that constitute it.

It is natural, it is clear that I do not mean that we now have realized a modern state that realizes equality as we desire and want. Therefore, I said that we exerted efforts and covered a distance and we all must continue the march. [applause]

You are aware, my brothers, that in building its civilization, each nation relies on a certain principle. However, the nation that wins a lofty position is that which relies in its existence on the human being in every sense of this term. The nation that builds a human being armed with knowledge and science, who enjoys social awareness, who is capable of bearing responsibility, and who is aware of the importance of the interconnection between what is civilized and what is human possesses the sharpest weapon and builds a better future.

Since the dawn of the Corrective Movement, our people's march has been rich and great by all standards. Despite its being limited in terms of time, it has great horizons. What has been realized is a source of pride for all of us. We are particularly proud of our people's ability to realize the difficult formula—here of course I am not going to enumerate the achievements that we have enumerated many times—we are particularly proud of our people's ability to realize the difficult formula that is represented in resurrecting all that is genuine and good in our nation's history and ending links with the effects of the past that hamper progress. The method that was followed never separated the aim from the means to realize it. The aim and the path in our methods are interconnected and one must be in harmony with the other in form and substance. The revolution, as a contemporary phase in time, requires definitive decisions to raise the level of the present, reach the hopes of the future, and get rid of the obstacles of the past that hamper progress and prosperity.

However, such speed in making this progress might cause confusion in terms of social relations. Some societies realized quick economic and social changes but the price that was paid at the expense of social ties was great. Thus there was a separation from the identity, heritage, and genuine character.

Our permanent endeavors in Syria are aimed at realizing a balanced and comprehensive development and to move on to contribute toward human civilization based on the people's renewable energies, which are advanced and which are based on firm principles of identity and originality.

We in Syria have inexhaustible and growing resources, which depend on land and its substance and man and his energies. With the interaction among these resources, the sources for strength and steadfastness are created. Our land is fertile and generous and our man is selfless, dynamic, and energetic. When dynamism is blended with science, man knows how to deal with the treasures of land.

Building intrinsic power gives confidence in the future. The nation must always search for the potential sources of its energies. It must strengthen what it has and discover what is hidden. When the nation looks forward to the future, filled with hopes, aspirations, and the supreme values and ethics, it makes a link between what is realistic and available now and future necessities. If what is available now does not rise to the level of the aspirations, then the future necessities should sharpen resources, release energies, and change what is available now to another state, in which these desired objectives can be achieved. Hope in achieving goals grows with the growth of the determination, effort, and persistent work we exert.

Syria today takes pride in the fact that what it achieved was great in terms of action, big in term of quantity, and superb in terms of quality. Factories were built by the workers, engineers, and technicians who converge on the factory carrying with them the traditions of the forefathers and the aspirations and hopes of the grandchildren. The peasant worked his land, and the land yielded the security, food, freedom, and bounty he sought. Universities spread throughout the country, and teachers were the messengers of Arab civilization and human advancement. Universities interacted with society, to which it gave knowledge at a rate equal to the support and feelings of pride it gave them. Our curing and preventive health institutes developed. The mortality rate dropped and the standard of health care improved. The pharmaceutical industry advanced, and the health institutes employed large number of doctors and male and female nurses. Transportation networks expanded, roads and bridges were built, and the means of domestic and foreign transport improved in a manner that corresponds to Syria's geographic location.

When the elements of human activity integrate in the factory, the field, the school, and the society, the masses

of the people can stand on a firm ground of self-construction, bolstered by authentic social values drawn from our civilization and established in our history. Martyrdom and sacrifice have become the most important values that guide our political and social life. These values are the means to preserve one's dignity now and in the future.

Brothers: Our work in previous years was directed mainly toward improving the conditions of the peasants in rural areas—of course, I favor you all and not just the peasant [applause]—and toward improving agricultural production, improving agricultural methods, and introducing new technologies to achieve high production rates. The rural area development and the improvement of the conditions of the peasants were a top priority in the development programs and plans. They are the true children of the land, who stuck to the land and crowned it with their efforts. They are the ones who had to put up with injustice throughout history and paid dearly to chart the way to future generations. Our efforts were directed toward them to demonstrate our feelings of love and loyalty.

Brothers and sisters: It is natural for this great work to face large and numerous challenges whose roots date back to the remote past. This past was characterized by much ignorance as well as a decline in political, social, and economic awareness by some strata of the community.

Moreover, the social circumstances interacted with the economic circumstances, creating a real social backwardness. Thus, appropriate ways and solutions had to be searched for. These ways and solutions were reached and implemented by virtue of the will to make a change, which our people adopted and mastered. Many reforms and developments took place. Furthermore, land ownership became established on appropriate bases; electricity reached remote villages; dams were built; and schools and health services spread in the countryside.

For the first time in the Arab region's history, we began to witness stability in the population's movement from the countryside to the city as well as encouraging signs of a reverse migration from the city to the countryside. This is a positive tendency based on elements linked to improving the economic and social situation of the peasants' masses. All this is the fruit of the efforts of our great people.

In development, there is a close relationship between material construction and modern styles of social change based on the economic and social development plans. As is known, will is an effective element in making a change through planning for development. As far as transformation is concerned, it is the track on which development takes place as a result of a continued alteration of the objective circumstances in general and in both the community's structure and relations between man and environment in particular.

The tendency for a change is highlighted through the continued interaction between what is available and what is desired and aspired for. Here lies the importance of development plans in addressing the symptoms that obstruct economic and social progress and impede resolving the problems facing both the planning and follow-up of implementation. Economic changes usually take place relatively quickly. However, a change in terms of habits and social behavior will take a longer time.

We in Syria have the right to be proud that the elements of economic and social development go hand in hand. Despite the fact that the economic changes have altered the community's bases, the substance of our people's ideals and genuine values have not changed. These ideals and values were actually enhanced so that the feelings were united, the sense of national unity was consolidated, the affiliation with the land and homeland increased, and both stability and social security were achieved. [applause]

I mention this in order to point out that the manifestations of the economic progress in Syria coincided with a large social awareness that has achieved security and tranquility for all people. Such a concurrence between economic progress and social balance is rare in most human communities.

Brothers: The woman's status and role in the community have been enhanced. We always refer to the woman. [applause] Everyone must be earnestly applauding. This is because many people previously objected to this matter. [applause]

The woman's status and role in the community have been enhanced. Thus, she joined the fields of science and work. Her humanitarian activity inside the family complements her economic and social activity outside it. Through this integration between humanitarian, social, and economic activities, a balance will be achieved in familial relations. Thus, a stable family will be the pillar of social structure as well as a living cell that supplies the community with survival and life.

When we compare the present and the past, we are reassured about what was achieved. We also grow confident that the future will be better. This is because Syria enjoys resources that foster welfare. Our national capabilities continuously increase by virtue of our sons' arms and minds. In recent years, we achieved important economic and social changes.

The public sector has laid the basic foundations for economic and social progress. It has also provided economic stability in a changing international climate. In addition, the public sector has developed. It is still progressively growing. The mixed sector has also developed and prospered. Thus, everybody is contributing to the progress and prosperity of the country and to providing the needs of the citizens. The volume of investments has increased and the base of education has expanded. All of this was the result of efforts that seek to

develop human resources and lead to the development of man. These efforts will also create a sound human being capable of self-development in order to foster the process of development at a rapid pace and to provide the needs of the citizens.

Despite the importance of those great achievements, we always aspire to perfection and excellence. This is what guides our actions and deeds. When any given society reaches a state of dormancy and is content with its achievements, it is prone to the relaxation and complacency that precede decline. In order for us not to face this situation we must provide a sound climate to reinvigorate and reactivate social and economic institutions. At every stage that witnesses the achievement of some of our goals we must sharpen our capabilities to attain new goals. Whenever the goals are great, attaining them requires mobilizing great resources, as much as possible.

Having said this, I want to mention very briefly some headlines that I think should be referred to, even though they are not the most important of all the things I have mentioned, and perhaps in your interests as a whole.

1. It is your duty to serve your country and citizens. However, the individual service that sometimes imposes itself is not the best way to serve the people. My talk is addressed especially to the members of the People's Assembly. [applause] Of course, this also applies to the ministers. [applause] You should pay attention to general affairs in your studies and discussions of national issues. This includes your discussion of political, economic, and social issues. You should also embark on a careful, in-depth study of laws through a present and future outlook and guided by public interests, away from individual and private interests. [applause]

2. Effective control will show you right and wrong. Thus, you will correct what is wrong and appreciate and commend what is right. There must be a mechanism—you remember, especially the members of the previous assembly and perhaps the listeners from the new assembly, that I have stressed this aspect in the past and I shall continue to stress it—to lay foundations that facilitate this control and illuminate your way to see things as they truly are and see what might be hidden or invisible. Thus, you will not go astray nor be misled. This way you will reach your goals and identify and correct errors and deter wrongdoers. Control will be identified with development, and this is the task of control. Control is defined basically as development. Anyone who fails to exercise control properly is, in effect, not contributing to his country's development. Those who exercise control seriously will promote the development of their country. [applause] This is everybody's duty. I have raised this issue previously in this assembly and during several terms of the assembly, and I will continue to stress and reiterate this matter because it has to do with progress, as I have said. It is our duty to promote the wellbeing of our country, and there should be no dereliction of duty on the part of any of us, especially in achieving progress for our country. [applause]

3. Modernizing laws is a national need. Many important laws have been modernized over the past years. Also, hundreds of laws that respond to the needs and progress of the country have been issued. Nevertheless, we still have some laws, and perhaps they are few, whose substance and form do not fit the present requirements. Therefore, the government and the People's Assembly must cooperate to make these laws fit our present needs.

4. Scientific research: I have raised this issue in the past and stressed the importance of giving scientific research due attention. There have been efforts in this field. Thus, important equipment was furnished. The necessary personnel are being trained, and our delegates are being sent to different places. Many studies have also been conducted. Despite this appreciable effort—and I thank those who have made and supervised these efforts and made some achievements—I emphasize that I want more. I want more time and effort to be devoted to this issue, because time is passing. It is difficult, and sometimes impossible, to compensate for wasted time. If we do not dedicate our efforts to scientific research and fathom its depths, then we will never achieve the progress that we aspire for. In fact, we may not safeguard the achievements we have already made, thanks to the sweat and sacrifices of our people. Based on this, scientific research should be our top priority. We must all realize that not taking things seriously and neglecting our duty in this field is a grave and serious matter. Scientific research is important to all fields of our life, without any exception. I hope that we will all see in the next stage more efforts and greater attention. [applause]

5. Technical and vocational science: We have given education at various levels a high opportunity. We have realized much that we are proud of. However, we did not give the technical and vocational training the attention that it should have had. We gave such attention later. We drew up definite programs for this education, setting ourselves a goal and fixing a timeframe to realize this. So far, we have covered important steps. What I want to say is that the enthusiasm of the students for technical and vocational education was not great because many are ignorant of the importance of this education and the country's need for it and its utmost importance in meeting the country's needs, as well as their ignorance of the material earnings that reflect on the students of technical and vocational education.

We must know that the advanced countries progressed and developed through such education. Since the eighties, we have had statistical information indicating that in a number of the most advanced Western states the number of those who study technical and vocational studies has exceeded 80 percent of the total number of students. These students occupy respectable positions in their societies and earn good salaries.

On this occasion, I would like to emphasize the need for the government to provide vocational and technical schools with all the tools, equipment, teachers, and

laboratories needed to graduate skillful students who master their work and serve their country.

6. We have realized great progress in the field of agriculture. This is confirmed by figures of production. We must work with greater speed than we have done so far to reclaim land and repair dams. Those who fail to do their duties and waste time must be held to account for this. The land reclamation projects and dams must be completed on time. I have found out that the percentage of implemented projects does not conform to the timeframes. The remedy is to make those responsible account for this. [Al-Asad departs from the prepared text] Of course, the prime minister is aware of this. Where is he? O, yes, there. I have always asked him to make them accountable and to punish them. Is not this so? [applause, laughter] Therefore, I have presented this issue to the People's Assembly to help us also. [laughter, applause]

7. The public sector laws must be developed to make them more capable of movement and to promote production and its quality. This requires extensive study in cooperation with the General Federation of Trade Unions. [applause] [Al-Asad departs from the prepared text] I have heard from many brothers and colleagues that they are tied by strings that are not applied to the private and mixed sectors. They want equality. Competition among everyone, among the three sectors, is fair, enjoyable, and useful. [applause]

8. The Armed Forces—the wall, sword, and shield of this homeland. [applause] That is how it was and that is how it will remain: believing in its mission, sincere to its duties, deep in its conviction in defending the nation, with the motto: Martyrdom or victory; martyrdom is life. [applause]

We will continue to take care of the Armed Forces under all circumstances. The strong people and the strong army aid the nation in its just causes and put the homeland where it should be in terms of glory and loftiness. The strong people is the one who achieves peace.

O brothers: In the aftermath of the international developments that have created the current international state of affairs—due to these developments—some situations have surfaced on the Arab scene. Some of these situations are connected to purely Arab factors, while others are external. The latter situations are the outcome of international changes. These developments have, all in all, caused a deterioration in inter-Arab ties. Similarly, they have led to a relinquishment of the basic axioms that have governed inter-Arab ties—the axioms enshrined in the Arab League Charter, approved by the Arab states, and agreed to at successive Arab summit conferences. This has weakened the overall Arab situation and exposed the Arabs to grave dangers in terms of their rights, aspirations, dignity, and destiny.

The maintenance of this state of affairs will not be in the interest of anybody, including those who have violated

axioms and the nation's basic values. This is because he who cannot promote his own interests through promoting the nation's interests cannot promote his own interests by overlooking the nation's interests. [applause] We are confident that the circumstances currently surrounding the Arab homeland are transitory in terms of the time factor, that they will not last forever or for long, and that the Arab nation will rise up and cope with all dangers and challenges, as it has always done.

We have made enormous efforts to reestablish Arab solidarity over the past few years. We have repeatedly urged brothers to identify a formula that enshrines axioms and controls. We still hope that all parties will be aware of the magnitude of the dangers and challenges entailed.

Syria, which has faith in its nation and which has always sought to remedy the Arabs' woes and vindicated their aspirations, will not be deterred by the deteriorating Arab state of affairs. It will continue to perform its pan-Arab mission with enhanced faith and greater determination.

O brothers: For scores of years, Syria has waged an Arab struggle to confront the Israeli occupation in order to liberate the territories and regain the rights. Our people have borne the major burden in the confrontation. This is a fact that all Syrians and Arabs know and must know. Our people have borne the brunt of the confrontation. We have made immense sacrifices in human lives and funds. This conflict has left its repercussions on the overall life in the country. We have waged this struggle over this protracted time period. We have demonstrated a willingness to make sacrifices. Likewise, we have accepted the martyrdom of our sons in defense of the territory we are struggling to regain, which epitomizes our honor and dignity. The aggression, which resulted in the occupation of the territories, jeopardizes the entire homeland and all the people.

We have fought to regain the territories and rights. The struggle to achieve this objective has continued. We have not waged the wars we have waged, nor have we made the sacrifices we have made because we love war and conflict, but rather to vindicate right and dignity and liberate the territories. [applause]

During the October war, we accepted UN Security Council Resolution 338, which includes a reference to Resolution 224. Since then, peace efforts have started on the basis of the aforesaid resolution. We have sought to achieve just and comprehensive peace that would restore the territories and rights.

Shortly after the Gulf war that followed the invasion of Kuwait, the U.S. President announced a peace initiative designed to settle the Middle East conflict based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Lengthy discussions were held with the U.S. Administration, particularly with the then Secretary of State James Baker.

These discussions lasted for months, after which we came to agreement. We also agreed after it became clear that the initiative aimed to establish a just and comprehensive peace based on these two Security Council resolutions, including finding a political solution to the Palestinian people's national rights, coupled with a U.S. assertion that the United States does not agree to the annexing of any parts of the territories occupied in 1967. This was in harmony with a previous U.S. position that rejected the implementation of Israeli law on the Golan. At that time, the United States stood against Israel's decision to apply Israeli law on the Golan.

On this basis, we joined both the Madrid conference and the talks held in Washington. Since the beginning, our decision has been clear; namely, coordination among the Arab parties participating in the peace process. We reached a formula for coordination through the periodic meetings of the Arab foreign ministers and the heads of the Arab delegations holding the talks, in addition to the continued meetings among the Arab delegations during the talks in Washington.

When we raised the issue of coordination, we started from the fact that other Arab parties, which were holding talks with the Israeli side in an unequal way, should benefit from Syria's situation, negotiating power, and various capabilities in the arena of conflict. Moreover, everyone realizes that the basic element of peace in the region is Syria. [applause]

We wanted the Arab parties to go to the talks after having taken some strength from Syria's strength. This is because we realize that, by all standards, separate negotiations will never be in favor of the Arab party that holds separate talks. This party is weak from the outset, and it has no choice but to yield to pressure and make concessions.

This was our viewpoint. We wanted to support Arab sides. But, we were surprised by the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and then by the Jordanian-Israeli agreement. I do not want to discuss the results they have achieved. However, actual developments have unequivocally demonstrated the immense damage the pursuit of separate solutions has caused to the substantive issues we have fought and struggled to vindicate for long.

As you may notice, I am not entering into details. I do not want to engage in a debate at this point of time between us and others, whether Arabs or foreigners. Our discussions with the foreigners are many and continuous, and they seek peace. Our positions are the same, and they are also clear and frank. Our principles are not ambiguous for us and for them in light of our clarifications to them. [applause]

Syria is serious about what it says. I have stressed this time and again during my talks with the Americans. I told them: We always mean what we say, and we fulfill our promises, but we do not usually promise anything except what we are convinced of, and we do not do

anything if it does not serve the interests of our country. It may be, in this case, that there is an interest to us and to others. However, we will never do anything and we will never agree to anything that serves the others and not Syria. [applause]

We really want peace and we are aware and we realize that everybody has an interest in this peace. However, we also resist all those who want to monopolize this peace. We will resist this and nobody will ever be able... [applause, continues] ...to realize peace with Syria without Syria's conviction. Syria adheres to its interests and rights, particularly its occupied territory. [applause]

[Al-Asad departs from his prepared text] Later, in the future, if we reach peace I might talk to you for many hours on the details of what we said and what they said. [applause] I will even talk about what we in Syria said and what the other Arabs said. Now we do not have any interest doing this.

In the Washington talks, our delegations stayed for more than two years without reaching any results. So we found that it was useless to continue the talks as long as the Israeli side does not want to proceed from the basis of international legitimacy and to recognize withdrawal from the occupied territories. I met with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Geneva and we discussed many international and regional issues, foremost of these was the issue of peace. We stressed together the importance of advancing the cause of peace. I stressed, and you heard me at that time, at a large news conference, that Syria deals with peace as a strategic option. We realize the strength of our position. We have rights and we can never relinquish these rights. Relinquishing any part of the homeland means relinquishing the homeland and the free will, and submission at the expense of rights, destiny, and future. This is not one of the traits of the Syrians. [applause]

We want a just peace because we want stability for the region. However, we want a peace that restores to us our territory and rights. The inequitable agreements and deals, which do not guarantee rights, cannot constitute an element for security and stability in the region.

Giving the peace process more meaning than it actually implies and imposing on it extraneous elements that do not belong to it—and I am here addressing others—does not help the peace process. Rather, this endangers it. We should not involve the peace process in issues that are outside its own framework.

The U.S. Administration has continued—through telephone contacts and messages between myself and President Clinton and through the visits of his Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region—to make active efforts to arrive at a formula for an agreement between us and Israel. What bolstered this U.S. activity is the U.S. conviction that Syria is serious about working for peace.

At these meetings, we continued to propose our views and ideas on the peace process. The Israeli side was also proposing its views and ideas to the U.S. side. So far, no significant progress has been achieved in the peace process. In spite of this, we appreciate the efforts of the U.S. Administration. We told it that we would continue to work for peace on the initial foundations of the peace process.

I stress once again that Syria is aware of the peace process and the importance of peace, which guarantees complete withdrawal. Syria is also aware that peace has objective requirements. These requirements are not alien to peace. Syria shall meet the objective requirements of peace that are agreed upon.

On this occasion, I once again salute fraternal Lebanon—[applause] people, president, chamber of deputies, and government. I appreciate Lebanon's remarkable steadfastness and firmness in coordinating with Syria, out of the shared belief of the two countries that divisions lead to weakness while unity leads to strength.

We are pleased to see Lebanon adhere further to the constants and refuse to follow the path of those who have deviated from the path of right, or to relinquish principles as others did. Syria's strength is a strength for Lebanon. Lebanon, which is strong by its people and principles, is a strength for Syria. The relationship between Syria and Lebanon is an example to be followed. We hope that there will be similar relationships in the Arab arena. [applause]

At the end of the talk about the peace issue, I say that despite the difficulties and lack of progress, which still exists, there is some hope to achieve peace. [applause] For our part, we will work to develop this hope, so that it will grow and turn into a fact; namely, to achieve peace, but on the just and comprehensive bases that we stressed from the beginning. We have not hidden our affairs or principles from anyone at all. [applause]

Brothers, there are many disputes in the world in which there are clashes of interest. Survival in this world's climate is for peoples who possess the resources of survival and progress and the requirements of self-reliance. God be praised, Syria possesses these resources and requirements. The people are active and the resources are proper. The planning is sound and the will is free. There is a determination to continue our march and build our country as best we can and strengthen our ability to face the challenges and defend our land, rights, and our nation's causes.

With these characteristics and with reliance on our proud people, we go toward the future with confidence and trust.

Brother members of the People's Assembly. You have a great role to play in promoting this march, in the progress of our country, and in rectifying the crooked

and the wrong. The people hope that you will play this role as best you can. I am optimistic that you will do that, God willing.

I wish you success in carrying out your responsibilities and duties. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Foreign Minister Al-Shar' on Peace Process, Lebanon

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[Report by Bari'ah 'Alam al-Din]

[Text] London—Peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors, according to Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', will be cold and temporary unless it is comprehensive, permanent, and just, and grounded in the land-for-peace formula and UN resolutions.

An Israeli withdrawal from the Golan must be comprehensive and speedy. Neither should the pullout take years to complete, since there is no logistical or practical need for that. Mr. al-Shar' further argues that the longer the withdrawal is delayed, the longer it will take to bring peace to the region. A speedy withdrawal will be in the best interests of all parties, emphasized al-Shar'.

He said President Hafiz al-Asad will visit Jerusalem after its liberation from occupation.

Al-Shar's remarks were made at a meeting held for pressmen at the premises of the foreign press association in London. The club was packed with Arab and foreign correspondents. Also present at the session were the Syrian Ambassador in London and the British Ambassador in Damascus, as well as the official in charge of Lebanese and Syrian affairs at the British Foreign Office.

Al-Shar' indicated that Syria's position both on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks enjoys widespread public support in Lebanon. Syria, he emphasized, will not settle for a peace settlement that ignores Lebanon's rights or does not provide for a total Israeli pullback from Lebanese territory. We think the Lebanese will not strike a separate deal that disregards Syria's position calling for a comprehensive and fair settlement. The Syrian man in the street, added al-Shar, will not stand for his government doing a separate deal that leaves out Lebanon. Likewise, his Lebanese counterpart will not agree to a settlement that disregards the Syrian position. Historical relations between the Syrian and Lebanese peoples are such that this should be so. Israel is making unacceptable and impossible claims on Lebanon, the Syrian foreign minister noted.

He was asked his opinion of a remark by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that he was prepared to accept a Syrian military presence in Lebanon once a peace deal is

done. Al-Shar' said this is a matter for Syria and Lebanon to decide. Neither Israel nor any other country has any business deciding on the matter one way or the other.

The close relationship between the Lebanese and Syrian peoples, al-Shar' contends, serves to advance rather than set back the cause of peace. It would have been extremely hard for the Lebanese to join the Madrid conference without our talking them into it. The Lebanese want to see UN Security Council Resolution 242 that explicitly calls for Israel's pullout from the occupied Lebanese territory implemented. Israel persists in ignoring the resolution, al-Shar' declared. We persuaded the brother Lebanese to join the Madrid conference in keeping with our stand on a just and comprehensive peace in the region, he said.

In reply to a question, al-Shar' said that, in principle, Syria was against separate deals. It serves the cause of peace for there to be a united Arab position on the peace process, he explained. A coordinated Arab position would have led to a solidly built universal peace and removed many obstacles, he argued. It would also have spared certain Arab states problems brought on by separate peace deals, he added.

Syria's is a constructive position. It deserves universal, including Israeli, support. If Israel cared about the security, stability, and prosperity of the region and was really interested in a just and comprehensive peace, it would not have acted as if it was out to do separate deals with the parties to the Middle East conflict. He stressed that for Syria coordinated Arab moves are a must, but that things in reality are different.

It will be up to the peoples, not the governments, to decide whether they want a warm or cold peace,

according to al-Shar'. However, he added, a just and balanced peace settlement will most likely create a new environment in the region. Beyond the mere signing of documents, peace must go down well with the peoples of the region themselves. While it is possible for a given government to sign a peace treaty, it will not be possible for it to force it on its people, al-Shar' declared.

Meanwhile, al-Shar' was asked by AL-HAYAH about his talks with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd about Lebanon and Iran and whether the British Government had asked Syria to intercede with Iran over the Salman Rushdie affair. I cannot dwell on these two points. My talks in London addressed regional issues and matters of bilateral interest, al-Shar' said. I can say, though, that my talks also covered Iran's relations with the West. I can also say that we in Syria think that world problems must be approached differently than in the cold war era. We also discussed Lebanon in the same spirit I have just described.

President Hafiz al-Asad said that he will visit Jerusalem when it is liberated, al-Shar' said in reply to a question. Exchange visits between heads of state, according to the Syrian foreign minister, must be the upshot rather than a component of peace. Those who are interested in arranging such sessions ought first to remove the obstacles standing in their way. This translates as Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory and settlement dismantlement. He dismissed dramatic meetings as being unsound.

Al-Shar' sounded optimistic as to the prospect of Syrian-British ties, which he said will improve progressively over time. Syria, he emphasized, wanted good and developing ties with Britain. Mr. Hurd and he agreed to promote that end, al-Shar' said.

Afghanistan

Government Official Denies Rebels Capture Lowgar

LD0809202394 Tehran IRNA in English 1853 GMT
8 Sep 94

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 8, IRNA—Afghan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Najibollah Lafra'i here on Thursday [8 September] rejected a claim made by Kabul government's opposition factions on Monday [5 September] that they had captured Lowgar province.

Lafra'i in an exclusive interview with IRNA here Thursday said that government's opponents had launched an offensive on Lowgar but they failed to advance due to the resistance of the Hezb Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society Party] forces. He said that Borhannoddin Rabbani's government would spare no effort to support measures aimed at ending clashes in Afghanistan.

However he said that efforts could be more fruitful if they were more coordinated. Lafra'i was of course referring to the activities of seminar in Herat in which 700 of ulema, leaders, political personalities and people's representatives took part.

Participants at the seminar, organized by Supreme Council of Herat and Governor of Herat Province Commander Isma'il Khan, agreed on the formation of a commission to arrange preliminaries for holding grand assembly of Afghan representatives, known as Loya Jerga.

Lafra'i said that Loya Jerga would be established in future by members of political commission and the opponents would have no choice but to go along with the assembly's bylaws.

On the reasons for Kabul government representatives' refusal to participate in the joint session of Afghan groups' representatives, Lafra'i said that based on Leadership Council's approval at the outset of mujahideen groups' victory over communist government, the Islamic National Movement was not considered legal. The movement is led by General 'Abdol-Rashid Dostam and in alliance with Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar's faction is fighting against forces loyal to Kabul Government.

Lafra'i, who is here to take part at the extraordinary annual meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference's foreign ministers, termed recent activities by the United Nations secretary general's especial envoy in Afghanistan Mahmoud Mestiri as "lacking definite strategy and programme."

Lafra'i said that even if he (Mestiri) had been successful in organizing a joint session to be attended by Afghan factions, it would have borne no results. Mestiri had on September second, just at the end of the second round of

his six-week tenure, announced in a statement that his mission had ended in failure.

Government Clears 'Large Area' in Faryab Province

LD0809190794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] As a result of mopping-up operations by the Islamic Army and the mojahedin, a large area in Faryab Province was cleared of the Golboddin-Dostam militias. According to reports reaching the Bakhtar Information Agency from Faryab Province, the mojahedin and the forces of the Islamic Army succeeded yesterday in clearing the villages of Samarkhas, Dedana, and Zerbolaq of the notorious militias, imposing heavy losses on the enemy.

As a result of an operation carried out under the command of Qomandan 'Abdollah Tofan, Saranwal 'Abdol Haq, Mola Mostafa, Haji Alam, and Gholam Mahbob, [words indistinct] a large number of weapons of various grades were also seized.

Opposition Claims Dostam Captures Khenjan Town

LD1009111094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT
10 Sep 94

[Text] Heavy clashes are continuing between the government and General Dostam's forces to the north and south of Kabul. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] The provinces of Baghlan and Lowgar to the north and south of Kabul are the scenes of heavy battles between the government and opposition forces. The sources, affiliated to the opposition Coordination Council, have announced that following heavy battles in Baghlan Province, General Dostam's forces have managed to capture the town of Khenjan. According to the same forces, the collapse of the town of Khenjan has cut off the only road link between Kabul and northern areas of Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, Najibollah Lafra'i, Afghanistan's minister of state for foreign affairs, has announced in a news conference in Islamabad today that he has no precise information about the battles in Khenjan in northern Kabul. He added: General Dostam has sent around 6,000 of his forces to the battle scenes close to Khenjan. The high-ranking Afghan official mentioned that in Lowgar Province in southern Kabul, the forces who support the president have managed to recapture recently lost ground. He added that meanwhile, heavy clashes are continuing in Lowgar Province between government and opposition forces.

In another part of the interview, Najibollah Lafra'i announced the readiness of the government to cooperate with the United Nations and the Islamic Conference

Organization for the peaceful resolution of the Afghan problem and said that he personally agrees with the proposal made by Mr. Velayati, the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign minister, for indirect talks with representatives of the opposition Coordination Council with Iran's mediation, but the final decision in that respect should be taken in Kabul.

Rockets Fired by Militias Cause Casualties in Kabul

53 Casualties on 8 Sep

LD0809182094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] During the past 24 hours five citizens of Kabul were martyred and 48 others were injured by rockets fired by the Golboddin-Dostam militias.

Kabul garrison reported to the Bakhtar Information Agency that the infamous militias fired 147 rockets and shells on the residential and crowded areas of the city during the past 24 hours. As a result of these savage attacks, five citizens including a woman who was praying, were martyred, and 48 others were injured.

The militias' rockets also destroyed three residential houses. The air force of the Islamic army retaliated against the militias' rocket attacks by bombing their positions and fortifications. No report is yet available on the militias' losses.

37 Casualties on 9 Sep

LD1009171994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Eleven citizens of Kabul were martyred and 26 others were injured as a result of 47 rockets, fired on the residential regions of Kabul by the Golboddin-Dostam militias.

A spokesman of the general command of Kabul garrison reported to the Bakhtar Information Agency that these rockets—fired yesterday evening from areas controlled by the infamous militias—landed on people's houses, causing loss of life and much material damage.

The firing of rockets by the so-called murderer coordination council band is a criminal action against all Islamic principles and humanitarian norms, said one Kabul resident.

Factions Hold Separate Talks With Ministers

LD0809212494 Tehran IRNA in English 2105 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 8, IRNA—Various Afghan groups including warring factions have had separate meetings with Iranian and Pakistani foreign ministers, informed sources told IRNA.

Representatives and allies of President Borhanoddin Rabbani discussed matters pertaining to the present conflict in Afghanistan and the reasons that made it further complicated. Afghan junior Minister for Foreign Affairs Najibollah Lafra'i told IRNA after the meeting that they talked about the "violations of Islamabad accord."

All Afghan factions and groups had signed an agreement in Islamabad in March 1993 in the presence of representatives of Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, representatives of Supreme Coordination Council led by Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, arch-foe of Rabbani, have also had a meeting with 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Asif Ahmad Ali. The sources said the anti-Rabbani alliance stated their position of Islamabad accord. They opined that Rabbani's rule was unlawful for the Islamabad accord was meant only for 18 months.

Rabbani blames his opponents of violating the agreement stating that present situation was not conducive for the transfer of power. Informed sources had earlier reported that Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia might hold joint sitting on Afghanistan on the sidelines of OIC meeting.

Bangladesh

Opposition: 500 Injured in Clash With Police

BK1009150394 Hong Kong AFP in English 1324 GMT 10 Sep 94

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 10 (AFP)—Bangladesh's main opposition leader accused the authorities of reviving the autocratic methods of the country's previous rulers to confront thousands of anti-government demonstrators here on Saturday, and vowed to continue the campaign to force new impartial elections.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, leader of the main opposition Awami League, told a press conference at least 500 people were injured, many with bullet wounds, in violent clashes during the day between thousands of demonstrators besieging central Dhaka and large contingents of police and security forces.

"What we witnessed today was a repetition... and the government ban was just an echo of the former autocratic regime" of ex-president Hussain Muhammad Ershad, she declared.

Announcing a three-day strike starting on Sunday, a normal working day in overwhelmingly Muslim Bangladesh, she said: "We want to ensure a system that will give the voters right of franchise forever."

Among the injured was opposition chief whip Muhammad Nasim, she said, and in addition 200 were arrested.

Other sources said about 200 people, including policemen, were injured in Dhaka. Police could not be reached immediately for comment.

Wajed spoke soon after thousands of opposition demonstrators besieging central Dhaka where government offices are situated fought running battle with security forces who responded with salvos of tear gas and rubber bullets.

The League and the Jatiya Party (JP) of deposed former president Ershad organised the siege as part of their ongoing campaign to force Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government to agree to fresh elections under a non-partisan caretaker administration.

The third opposition party, the Muslim fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami, held a rally late Saturday for the same purpose.

The opposition, which has been boycotting parliament since March, maintains that free and fair elections cannot be guaranteed under Zia's authority. But the government has rejected opposition demands as "unconstitutional."

JP and Jamaat also denounced the police action. They said the government would have to bow down to the peoples' demand.

Asked if the League would eventually opt for renewed talks with the government to try to end the impasse, Wajed told AFP "wait and see."

During the clashes police carried away a blood-soaked man and unconfirmed reports said he had died when police fired rubber bullets. No independent confirmation was available.

Staff at Dhaka Medical College Hospital said 13 were being treated there, several with bullet wounds.

Witnesses said more than 30 people were detained during the protests.

Police unleashed tear gas when demonstrators detonated home-made bombs in streets on two sides of the government's high-security secretariat complex which houses most ministries.

Some demonstrators managed to slip past a tight police cordon of the area and hurled sticks and stones. Others tried to break through barbed wire barricades, part of a major security operation involving some 10,000 men.

"Action, action, direct action," the protestors shouted.

Roads leading to the central area were sealed off with barbed wire as part of efforts to prevent unauthorised access and security forces kept a close watch from high-rise buildings.

Police had banned the carrying of weapons, stones or "any other objects which can be thrown" and forbidden rallies, demonstrations and processions in the vicinity of the secretariat complex.

India

PRC Defense Minister Meets Commerce Minister

BK0909132794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The visiting Chinese defense minister, Mr. Chi Haotian, held extensive discussions with the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherji. The minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun; the defense secretary; and other senior civil and military officials were also present. Both sides were satisfied at the progress made by Joint Working Group and agreed that increased defense exchanges have contributed to the building up of mutual trust and confidence. The Chinese defense minister said there has been a steady improvement of bilateral relations since the visit of the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, to Beijing. Both the countries expressed their resolve to strengthen further their friendly relations.

Stresses Desire for Peaceful Border

BK0909162494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The visiting Chinese defense minister, Mr. Chi Haotian, held extensive discussions with the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee. The minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun; the defense secretary; and other senior civil and military officials were also present. Both the sides were satisfied at the progress made by the joint working group and agreed that increased defense exchanges have contributed to the building of mutual trust and confidence. The Chinese defense minister said that there has been a steady improvement of bilateral relations since the visit of the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, to Beijing. Both the countries expressed their resolve to strengthen further their friendly relations. Mr. Chi Haotian conveyed to New Delhi that his country desires that the border between the two countries should be an area of peace and tranquility.

Home Minister Reviews Kashmir Situation

BK0909162194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 43 persons—including 29 militants and 14 civilians—were killed in separate incidents in the last 24 hours. Twenty-one militants were arrested and security forces recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition, including 25 AK rifles, two pistols, and 18 grenades. The details of these incidents were given by an official spokesman in Srinagar today.

The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, reviewed the law and order situation in the state at a meeting of senior officers of the state administration and the paramilitary forces in Srinagar today. He also discussed the pace of implementation of the developmental

schemes. AIR correspondent who talked to a cross section of the people in Srinagar, Baramula, and Kupwara areas reports that there is a growing feeling among the people against terrorism.

Iran

Pakistani President Meets With Leaders

Talks With Khamene'i

LD1109113494 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Sep 94*

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution, this morning received the president of Pakistan, Mr. Faruq Ahmad Khan Leghari, and the high ranking delegation that accompanied him.

During the meeting that the president, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and a number of the cabinet members were present, views were exchanged and discussions held on issues pertaining to the world of Islam and the two countries' relations.

In the meeting, his eminence the leader referred to the sincere and deep relations between the two Muslim countries of Iran and Pakistan and said: The all-round ties between Iran and Pakistan are definitely in the interest of the two nations, and the extremely satisfactory ties between the two countries are the result of great efforts by the two sides. Therefore the opportunity should not be given to hidden and destructive hands to bring the two countries' relations under the influence of their mysterious and ominous aims.

Khamene'i referred to the strong bonds between the two nations of Iran and Pakistan and said: Islam has been the most important factor in bonding the fraternal and sincere relations between the two countries. The Pakistani nation, whether Shi'i or Sunni, is the Muslim nation of Iran's brother. But foreign-led extremist anti-Shi'i groups who are active in Pakistan are trying to damage the unity and fraternity of the two nations. The leader of the Islamic revolution described the Pakistani nation as a people who have passed its test, is faithful, and believes in Islam. He said: The Muslim nation of Pakistan has a strong link with Islam, and Pakistani officials have also good association with Islam. Experience shows that the success of any government in that country depends on the level of its devotion to Islam and its respect for Islamic rites.

The eminent leader of the Islamic revolution stressed the importance of the continuation of close cooperation between Iran and Pakistan in various international issues and said: The problem of Kashmir is a humanitarian and Islamic issue for the Islamic Republic of Iran because the Muslim nation of that region are clearly subjected to oppression and tyranny. We have always

conveyed our extreme dissatisfaction of what is happening to the Muslim people of Kashmir to the government of India and expressed it in various circles and we will continue to do so.

Khamene'i condemned the West, particularly the United States and the circles who advocate human rights, for ignoring the violation of the rights of the Muslim peoples of Kashmir, Palestine, Bosnia, and Karabakh and said: Islamic countries, particularly Iran and Pakistan, are duty-bound to reveal the tragedies which the oppressed people of Kashmir are subjected to.

His Eminence the leader mentioned the need for the active approach of Islamic countries towards the problem of Palestine and said: Some far off Muslim countries, particularly those in Asia, have adopted considerably better stances towards the problem of Palestine than that of the Arab countries. Those stances should be strongly and powerfully protected.

During the meeting, Pakistani President Faruq Leghari said also that he and his accompanying delegation were pleased to be given the opportunity to meet His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. He made some remarks during which he explained his country's viewpoints vis-a-vis the issues of the Islamic world, particularly the problems of Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan.

He described Iran-Pakistan relations as fraternal and very close, and stressed that the two countries' further efforts towards promotion of mutual cooperation and solidarity can play an even more effective role in approaching international problems.

Leghari pointed to his country's efforts to make all government rules and regulations conform to Islamic law and said that the government of Pakistan intends to take further serious steps towards the Islamicization of the country. The country's constitution has been drawn up on the basis of the shari'ah, the Koran and the sunnah, and the Pakistani Government is only allowed to draw up rules and regulations only within that framework.

Holds Talks With President

NC1109084494 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Sep 94*

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Farooq Ahmad Leghari, presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of Pakistan respectively, held their first round of talks in Tehran last night. They discussed bilateral relations, important regional and international issues, and problems concerning the world of Islam.

During this round of talks the Pakistani president pointed out that Iran is the first country he is visiting after being elected president, adding that this shows the great significance attached to the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pakistan's foreign policy. He said: In addition to the cultural, religious, and historical links between the

two Islamic countries of Iran and Pakistan, the new situation in the world and the existence of many problems in the world of Islam, as well as the world in general, pose threats to the Islamic countries which dictate that the level of cooperation and exchanges of views between the two countries should be increased.

Leghari referred to the problems of Kashmir, Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Nagorno-Karabakh, and Tajikistan and to the current problems in some of the Central Asian countries as problems of the world of Islam and of the region, issues both sides are interested in. He added: We thank the Islamic Republic of Iran for its clear and decisive stands in support of the Kashmiri people. We request that the Islamic Republic of Iran continue its efforts to find a just solution of the Kashmiri problem.

The Pakistani president condemned efforts by some world powers to fan the flames of domestic conflicts and differences in some Muslim countries and areas, saying: The sincere relations between Iran and Pakistan and their cooperation and common views on establishing unity among all the Muslim countries can be a good example for other Islamic countries so that we can—within the framework of all-embracing cooperation and especially of the Islamic Conference Organization and the Economic Cooperation Organization—help to overcome the existing conflicts in some of the Islamic countries while strengthening political, economic, and commercial relations.

Listing the various common stands on economic, commercial, technical, industrial, scientific, and cultural cooperation between Iran and Pakistan, Leghari said that it is necessary for the existing potentials in both countries to plan a complementary role in expanding the economies of both countries. He advocated the transfer of Iranian gas to Pakistan and to India via Pakistan.

The Pakistani president also expressed his country's readiness for security cooperation, especially in the fight against drugs along the two countries' common borders.

During the talks, Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed gratitude for the attention paid by the Pakistani Government and people to problems of the world of Islam and emphasized the Islamic Republic's continuous support for the Kashmiri people. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the solution to this problem can only be found through close cooperation between India and Pakistan and through the prudence of the two countries' officials in finding a peaceful solution.

The president rejected the concept of a polarization of the world. He stressed the need for regional cooperation, saying: The common grounds for the two countries' cooperation in the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf area, the Arabian Sea, and in Central Asia, as well as the expansion of bilateral relations dictate that Iran and Pakistan work harder than ever before to consolidate their friendship and relations.

He said that closer cooperation between the two big and populous countries of Iran and Pakistan is extremely important for promoting solutions to the problems of the world of Islam—namely, Palestine, Nagorno-Karabakh, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan.

Pointing out that Iran and Pakistan have the potential to expand relations beyond the present level, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: Preliminary arrangements for the construction of a refinery by Iran in Pakistan with joint investment are complete, and a project to send Iranian gas to Pakistan is under study. It is hoped that with the implementation of these two projects, the expansion of bilateral relations will be further accelerated.

He referred to the project for the transfer of Iranian gas to India via Pakistan as a project that can promote peace and emphasized the significance of transferring energy to Asian countries.

Pointing out the need to preserve the principle of commercial competition and the need for the two countries' private sectors to participate in the technical and industrial projects, the president noted the interest of Iranian entrepreneurs and contractors in operating in the friendly country of Pakistan. He also stressed the need to encourage cooperation by Pakistani contractors and technical and development companies.

He also emphasized the need for more effective cooperation by Pakistan's security officials in the fight against drug manufacturing and trafficking.

During the meeting—which was attended by the ministers of foreign affairs, roads and transportation, and petroleum and energy as well as by a number of other officials from both countries—it was agreed that oil and gas, industry, trade, political and security, and cultural committees will be formed and that during the second round of talks delegations from the two countries will discuss problems in each of these fields and will brief the two countries' presidents on the outcome of their efforts.

Government Condemns Killing of Reporter in Bosnia

*LD1009084594 Tehran IRNA in English 0801 GMT
10 Sep 94*

[Text] Tehran, 10 Sep (IRNA)—Iran's Foreign Ministry in a statement Friday [9 September] condemned martyrdom of an Iranian reporter and relief worker by Croat militiamen in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Quoting a fact-finding delegation from the Iranian Embassy in Bosnia-Herzegovina to Mostar, the statement said that the Iranian reporter and relief worker in Bosnia, Seyyed Mohammad Navab, was martyred after being taken captive by Croat militiamen on August 28.

Navab who intended to go to Bosnia through Zagreb was kidnapped by Croat militiamen in central Mostar upon passing through the city of Split in Croatia.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry after being informed of the kidnapping dispatched a delegation to Mostar and embarked on expanded diplomatic efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in Croatia.

To this end Iranian ambassadors in the region met with various local officials including Croat prime minister and president of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

However, despite all such measures, Croat militiamen killed the Iranian reporter after torturing him.

"Condemning the crime, the Islamic Republic of Iran highly expects the government of Croatia to take the speedy measures to clarify the case and punish the criminals given its influence on Croat militiamen," the Foreign Ministry statement stressed.

Meanwhile, the Persian daily 'KAYHAN' reported Thursday [8 September] that its correspondent in Bosnia has been kidnapped by Croat militiamen and taken to an unknown place.

Navab who was dispatched to the area to cover developments in Bosnia, held a special U.N. card for relief workers, the evening daily said.

The paper added that despite official protests the Iranian Foreign Ministry has made against the Croat Government, there were no reports on Navab's whereabouts until Thursday.

The Croat Ambassador to Tehran Osman Muftic was summoned to the Foreign Ministry twice in this connection Wednesday [7 September], the daily added.

Given the influence of Croatia in the region, [word indistinct] general of the central-north European affairs of the Iranian Foreign Ministry Ebrahim Rahimpour in a meeting with Muftic Wednesday called for necessary measures by the Croatian Government for Navab's immediate release.

Rahimpour later stressed that the issue will affect the prestige of Croats in the world public opinion.

Regretting the incident, Muftic referred to Iran's efforts in sending relief to the Bosnian people and termed Navab's kidnapping as indecent and promised that his country would spare no effort in this respect.

Ayatollah Jannati on ICPD, Abortion Issue

LD0909145594 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1032 GMT 9 Sep 94*

[Second sermon of Tehran's Friday prayers at the grounds of Tehran University by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, head of the Islamic Publicity Organization and member of the Guardian Council—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Another issue is the conference on population and development in Cairo [International Conference on Population and Development,

ICPD]. Well, there has been a lot of talk about this already. In short, the United Nations has decided to trample on anything connected to Islam, ideology, ethics, and chastity. I have summarized all their activities in these few words. They really are the enemies of morality and chastity, for whatever reason they have. They do not want to differentiate between men and women, they do not want to draw a line between what is religiously permitted and forbidden [halal va haram] in sexual matters. They want absolute liberty, except in one or two cases, which according to their own calculations may cause friction [sentence as heard].

Now one of the issues raised there was abortion. They say we want to control population growth, the world's population is rising, something should be done or else the world will explode. They say when the world's population increases, it cannot be administered, humans will eat humans. Very well, so what should be done? Nothing, abortion! In other words, people are free to have illegitimate relationships. They say it doesn't matter, they can establish any kind of relationship they like. Husbands and wives are not mentioned. And when the relationship leads to a child, even through a legitimate relationship, there must be an abortion! Okay, they don't say there must be an abortion, they say abortion should be allowed and children can be killed in this way in the mother's womb.

Well, this is one of their statements. The other one which is not as clear as this but appears on the sideline of the issues is the freedom to have sexual relations. This is how they think: boys and girls should be free and parents have no right to limit their freedom. They can have any kind of relationship with anyone they like and they are free to do so. Parents work hard, suffer and bring up their children but they cannot educate them to be chaste and pure. They should throw them into a disgusting cesspool of lust. This is the sort of thing they believe.

Well, thank God, a delegation from the Islamic Republic has gone there, and this was calculated. This delegation should take care of and defend Islam. Others have things to say, obviously. There has been some defense of Islam and against abortion. However, the one whose whole existence is filled with fervor and love for Islam and looks upon this issue as a mother would look upon her child is the Islamic Republic whose really cares, cares for Islam.

Islamic countries should accept this phrase: above all, we are Muslims. We are Muslims before we are UN members, we are Muslims before we are members of this or that convention, we are Muslims before we sign this or that international agreement. Above all, we are Muslims. Keep your hands off our religion! Don't touch our beliefs and morality and we shall abide by and be true to any other agreement that we have signed. I can't say any more about this issue. [passage omitted]

Majles Merges Ministries; Speaker on ICPD

LD1109132494 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Sep 94*

[Text] During today's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles a bill on the merging of the Ministries of Industries and Heavy Industries and the formation of a single Industries Ministry was approved.

According to a report by our correspondent, on the basis of the bill's single article, from the time of the approval of this law the Ministries of Heavy Industries and Industries merge and a new ministry will be formed called the Industries Ministry.

The law envisages that the new minister should prepare the articles of association of the new ministry within two months and present them to the Majles after they have been approved by the cabinet.

Also the budget for the new ministry during the year 1373 [year beginning 21 March 1994] will be provided from the credits previously allocated to the two former ministries.

Also, a report by the Committee for the Revolution Institutions requesting that a group of deputies investigate the performance of the Foundation for the Oppressed and Disabled was read, which was approved after a vote was taken..

On the basis of a report by our correspondent, during today's open session of the Majles, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri condemned the silence of the West toward the mass murder of the oppressed people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and expressed regret at the United Nations' incapability to resolve the crisis in Bosnia. He said: If the United Nations is not able to perform its duty toward the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, then it should allow lovers of mankind throughout the world who are prepared to help the oppressed people of Bosnia to act.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri also praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's new [as heard] delegation at the International Conference on Population and Development and described the solidarity and active participation of Islamic countries at the conference as positive. He said: Western countries have taken part in the conference in order to wage an ideological campaign against divine religions and confront them. With the efforts and endeavor of the Islamic countries, however, they failed to achieve their goals. He said: We are in agreement with the issues of development and population control as far as religious and moral principles are observed.

Pakistan**Chinese M-11 Missile Deliveries Denied**

BK1009100394 *Islamabad THE NEWS in English 10 Sep 94 p 12*

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Sardar Aseff Ahmed Ali has categorically denied reports that

Pakistan has violated any provisions of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and received delivery of Chinese M-11 missiles. He urged the United States to pressure India, and not Pakistan, whose missile programme is a serious threat to the peace and security in the region.

Responding to this correspondent's question about his comments on some published reports in the US that Pakistan has received delivery of Chinese M-11 missiles, which is a violation of MTCR, the Pakistan Foreign Minister forcefully denied such reports and said "We don't have those Chinese M-11 missiles. Again and again we have said so to them. We don't have Chinese M-11 missiles. But they insist on saying that we have. Now what do we do about it?" The US State Department officials, in their comments about these reports have also confirmed that they do not have any compelling evidence that Pakistan has received delivery of M-11 Missiles. The Foreign Minister said "But they (US) are not doing anything about the Indian development of the Prithvi and Agni missiles. India has not only developed but also deployed these missiles. So the threat is to Pakistan. Instead of taking some cognizance of this security threat to Pakistan, they (US) want to put the pressure on us as well. Time and again, we have reiterated that we don't have them (M-11)."

Urging America to exert the pressure on the Indian missile programme, Sardar Aseff Ahmed Ali said that "we wish that this pressure would be exerted and asserted where the threat comes from. Why they choose to ignore the Indian deployment and development of missiles and choose to target us for something that we have not done."

When asked that in the absence of Chinese M-11 missiles, how Pakistan will meet the security challenges posed by the indigenous Indian missiles, the Foreign Minister replied that "as I said there is a security threat to Pakistan and Pakistan will take all the necessary steps to meet this growing threat." About the current status of Pakistan's preparedness to meet any security threat from Indian missiles, Sardar Aseff Ali told The News that "we are able to defend our country on every front."

Later, a spokesman of Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, Munir Akram, also addressed the issue of MTCR and labeled such reports as fabricated. He told this correspondent that "Pakistan has repeatedly stated that it has not violated the MTCR guidelines." Acquiring of missiles with a range of 300 kilometers with the capacity of 500 kilograms of payload is in violation of MTCR guidelines.

The Foreign Office spokesman confirmed that Pakistan did acquire some short range missiles during the Afghan war, but stressed that the range and payload capacity of these missiles were within the limits of MTCR. He told this correspondent that a "few years ago, after the attacks of Scud missiles from Afghanistan on Pakistani cities, we had requested China for the supply of some short range

missiles, which were supplied, quite some times ago. These imports do not violate the MTCR guidelines."

He regarded such allegations against Pakistan as baseless propaganda by those who want to divert world's attention from Indian atrocities and violation of human rights in Kashmir and the missile programme. Munir Akram said that "India is always trying to deflect pressures from not only Kashmir, but also from its own missile program. That is the real threat to the South Asian non-proliferation regime."

He repeated Pakistan's proposal of making South Asia "a missile free zone." If India is so worried about Pakistani missiles, it should accept Pakistan's proposal of making South Asia "a missile free zone."

Bhutto, Syria's Qaddur Discuss Mideast Peace

JN0809161294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto yesterday received Nasir Qaddur, [Syrian] minister of state for foreign affairs.

Talks dealt with the agenda of the seventh extraordinary conference of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization member states, currently convening in Islamabad.

Talks also dealt with the peace process. It was emphasized that realizing peace in the region requires full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, and the rest of Arab territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 aggression.

Talks also dealt with bilateral relations.

Foreign Office Warns of 'Accidental War'

BK1009121094 Karachi DAWN in English 9 Sep 94 p 1

[Bureau report]

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 8—A spokesman of the Foreign Office said here on Thursday [8 September] apart from escalation of tension between Pakistan and India, an increase in Indian violations along the Line of Control [LoC] could trigger off an "accidental war".

He was responding to a query from DAWN regarding the warning of war given on Wednesday by United Nations Secretary General Butrus Ghali, who met with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Foreign Minister Sardar Asf Ali Khan here.

Mr Ghali is reported as having said: "we fear the escalation of hostilities between Pakistan and India could lead to an accident which would have disastrous repercussions."

Asked to elaborate this statement and what exactly did Mr Ghali mean by "accident", the Foreign Office spokesman said: "the increase in Indian hostilities and

stepping up its political rhetoric against Pakistan makes the situation at the borders extremely volatile. Anyone can accidentally fire the first shot, engulfing the region in war," he said. Fearing such a scenario, the spokesman said: "it is precisely for this reason that Pakistan suggested to Secretary-General Butrus Ghali the strengthening of UN Monitoring Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) along the LoC."

It is understood that on Wednesday a comprehensive discussion on the current volatile situation along the LoC took place between Mr Ghali and the Chief of UNMOGIP, General Glantz Ricardo, who flew into Islamabad from Srinagar, which is his summer headquarters.

According to well-informed sources, General Ricardo confirmed Islamabad's complaint against Indian violations along LoC amounting to 100 every month. Interestingly, India has not made a single complaint of LoC violations against Pakistan, because it does not recognise UNMOGIP.

Murtaza Bhutto Demands 'National Government'

BK1209075694 Islamabad THE NATION in English 12 Sep 94 pp 1,4

[Report by Syed Nadeem]

[Text] Islamabad—Mir Murtaza Bhutto has predicted that the current political system is heading towards total disaster if a government of national consensus is not formed within the National Assembly.

Murtaza, the younger brother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was addressing a press conference on Sunday, reiterating his demand for a national government. Murtaza strongly believed that it was the only way to save the country from total destruction.

He said he had met Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Mir Zafarullah Jamali and PML (N)'s Syed Abidin Hussain in the capital to discuss the general political situation and the possibility of the national government. He also met Ambassadors of China and Palestine on Sunday [11 September].

To a question, he said that "We all have to make the idea of the national government viable because there is no other way this system could survive. If that does not materialise, I am afraid the country would again go into the hands of a non-political government."

When asked, he denied reports that there had been any patch-up between him and Ms Bhutto. "I have neither gone to the Prime Minister's House to meet Benazir Bhutto nor have I asked anybody to convey a message to her. I have no differences with her except of political nature."

"I have set a particular agenda for talks with her which is based on throwing out Late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's murderers out of the People's Party, restoration of Begum

Nusrat Bhutto as chairperson and that party funds should be properly audited," he said.

About Federal Minister for Education, Syed Khurshid Shah's statement that Murtaza should meet his sister, Mr Bhutto said he would meet Benazir Bhutto with a serious political agenda only when she was ready for it. "Anyway, who is Khurshid Shah. He has no business to poke his nose in such matters," Murtaza said.

To another question, he said he did not intend to meet Sardar Farooq Khan Leghari in the near future.

He described his supporters as genuine but poor while according to him, Ms Bhutto was leading an "official" PPP consisting of opportunists. Murtaza said that if Ms Bhutto did not come to table on the above said points, he would call party conventions in all provinces from January next year and start reorganising the People's Party.

To Murtaza, there was no difference between the PML (Nawaz) and the official PPP. About the train march being launched by the PML (N), he said Mian Nawaz Sharif had exposed himself by observing Yaum-i-Nijaat on the death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam.

"For us, the Yaum-i-Nijaat falls on August 17, the day late dictator General Ziaul Haq died. But Nawaz Sharif has chosen September 11 as Yaum-i-Nijaat, the day when Father of the Nation had died."

To another question, he said Nawaz Sharif's demand for fresh elections was not the solution of the problem. "The national government should be formed and it should be allowed to work for at least three years." To repeated questions, he said that such a set-up would emerge from within the House but it would not be headed by Benazir Bhutto or Nawaz Sharif.

Muriaz said he had met Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Zafarullah Jamali and Mir Balakh Sher Mazari and all of them appeared to be honest persons.

When confronted that the current House consists of two main parties whose governments have been dismissed on charges of corruption, Murtaza said it was true that both of them were thoroughly corrupt. "But I also believe that only 10 to 15 persons on either side have indulged in corruption.

The rest would like to see a clean government. I also believe the national government should hold accountability of such persons," Murtaza added. [quotation marks as published]

What Murtaza could not explain was that as to why would most of the members of the present House, who had been dismissed for corruption, support a government that would take them to task.

It seems he has the right idea and objective but does not know how to go about it.

Asked about Nawaz Sharif's statement on Pakistan's nuclear programme, he said it was irresponsible of the former prime minister to talk publicly about such sensitive matters. "I am for one coherent national position on the nuclear issue whatever shall it be.

The President, the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and Chief of the Army Staff should formalise that national position and then we as a nation should stick to it."

He said Nawaz Sharif's outburst had put the country in a difficult position as Pakistan could not afford economic sanctions from the West at this stage.

About the presidential form of system, he said it did not matter which system if it was run by honest and competent persons. He said his late father was the first elected President of the country but later he had switched to the parliamentary form of government.

About the present set-up, he said corruption had devastated the country and the government was privatising oil and gas fields which never happened anywhere in the world. "Today, it is oil and gas, tomorrow they could also privatise nuclear plan and the Pakistan army."

He said he was not interested in contesting a national assembly seat. About his popularity graph, he said in Sindh if elections were held at this moment, he would win all except for the MQM's 27 traditional seats and some rural constituencies of Jatois, Pir Pagaro and Mumtaz Ali Bhutto.

Sri Lanka

Prime Minister Comments on LTTE Cease-Fire Offer

BR0909132294 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Chandrika Banadaranike-Kumaratunga has already taken action to respond to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader's letter for unconditional negotiations and a cease-fire. The minister for irrigation, power, and energy and deputy minister of defense, Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte, told newsmen yesterday that the government is fully (?assessing) LTTE supremo Prabhakaran's offer for unconditional truce and that it is prepared for the negotiations. The letter signed by the prime minister will be transmitted in a day or two through the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] to the LTTE leadership, who will be requested to announce place and the (?date) for the talks.

He said the government would be requesting the LTTE to cooperate in the transfer of more food items to reach them before the monsoon sets into Elephant Pass, Kankasanturai, and Kandanketiya. Colonel Ratwatte disclosed that the cabinet has appointed a task force for

the restoration of normalcy in north and east headed by the power minister. Several ministers are in this task [as heard] in order to expedite the rehabilitation and reconstruction in the disturbed areas of the north and the east. Action has already been taken to restore power in certain areas of the Jaffna Peninsula and also in the east and repair the damaged irrigation canals in the east.

The deputy defense minister expressed the hope that the LTTE would cooperate in the restoration of local government in the Jaffna Peninsula. Jaffna Hospital will be initially supplied with power and the abandoned [words indistinct] units in the north will be reestablished. He was sure that foreign agencies would assist in this task for reconstruction.

Responds to Letter From LTTE Leader

BK1009142894 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga has replied to a letter from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leadership expressing willingness for discussions to find a solution to the ethnic problem. According to the deputy minister of defense, Anuruddha Ratwatte, the letter has been sent to LTTE leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, through the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. The letter has referred to the provision of electricity to the north. It has requested the LTTE to appoint a representative for the talks. Reports from Jaffna says that they had already named Tamil chairman as their negotiator. The LTTE leader last Sunday [4 September] had sent a letter through the ICRC to the defense secretary saying that he was ready to hold talks with the government on the communal problems in the north. The deputy defense minister had earlier said that the talks will be held without any condition.

The development took place following the government's lifting of the ban on sending 28 items to the north. The long suffering people of Jaffna are being relieved following the arrival and distribution of 28 items earlier banned. The new government partially lifted the economic embargo on the northern peninsula recently. According to informed sources, shops are well stocked with milk food, textiles, groceries, bicycles, and other items. They were part of a consignment sent from Colombo after the relaxation of the economic embargo. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that a senior government official in Jaffna had reported to his head office in Colombo that the Jaffna people were very

happy with this gesture by the government. Hopes were high that there will be a return to peace in Jaffna soon after 12 long years of strife and hardships caused by the economic conflict. The latest consignment of goods comprising rice, packet of dal [lentils], milk food, soaps, textiles, sweets, biscuits, medicines, and other groceries were unloaded by MV [Merchant Vessel] (Komar) in the port of Point Pedro and is already available in the shops. Meanwhile, the MV (Maho) will leave Trincomalee on Monday [12 September] with 3,000 tons of flour. The government has sought LTTE's cooperation to send goods by road to Elephant Pass and to install five-kilowatt power generator to provide electricity to the Jaffna town and the hospital immediately. Assistance was sought from the LTTE to repair the thermal power station at Chunnakam, which had been badly damaged. A ministerial task force have been established to speedily rehabilitate the north and east.

LTTE Nominates Representative for Peace Talks

BK1209115594 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The people of Jaffna are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga in the peninsula. LANKAPUVATH, quoting Jaffna residents who reached Colombo this weekend, told the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that the people in the northern province were confident that the People's Alliance government's policy towards solving the ethnic crisis would be successful.

Meanwhile, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, has reportedly nominated his Jaffna leader, Tamil Selvan, as his representative to work out the modalities for peace talks with the government. LANKAPUVATH further reported that both Tamil Selvan and the LTTE political adviser, Anton Balasingham, have said in Jaffna that Prime Minister Kumaratunga unlike her predecessors has shown a sensitive sensibility to the hopes and aspirations of the people of the North. They also appreciated the conciliatory gestures such as the partial lifting of the economic embargo and exploring the possibility of opening a land route to traffic in and out of the Jaffna peninsula. Some Jaffna residents who are in Colombo now have said that the LTTE representatives have gone around the peninsula explaining to the people that they trusted Prime Minister Kumaratunga and that they were willing to make a very determined effort to end the 12-year old conflict, which has claimed 30,000 lives and over.

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